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## Security forces kill two Hamas fugitives in A-Ram village

SECURITY forces yesterday killed two Hamas fugitives - one of whom was wanted for involvement in the murder of General Security Service Officer Noam Cohen last February - in the village of A-Ram, just north of Jerusalem.

Senior IDF sources said that Abdul Monem Muhammed Yusef Naji, 25, from the Amari refugee camp near Ramallah, was killed in

an operation involving the General Security Service, the special anti-terrorist unit of the Border Police, and the IDF.

Another man, Zuhair Ramadan Rushdi Farah, from A-Ram was also killed. The IDF sources said Farah, also in his 20's, was known as a Hamas activist in Jerusalem. Both men belonged to the Hamas's military wing, Izzadin Kassam.

Last night, residents of the village took to the streets shouting "Allahu Akbar," and "Down with occupation." Tires were burned across the street from the shooting site, and soldiers fired tear gas to disperse the crowd. The security forces placed A-Ram under curfew last night.

The operation took place on a street in A-Ram. Witnesses told AP that it took place just after the

HERB KEINON

two men got off a bus. IDF sources said Naji was found with a loaded pistol.

Rioting broke out in the village immediately after the shooting, and soldiers fired tear-gas canisters to disperse the crowd.

Yehezkel Cohen, the father of Noam Cohen, told Israel Radio.

"I am happy the it was made clear that Hamas does not enjoy immunity from the GSS, and that the GSS's promises that murderers will be caught and punished are not empty. I don't know if Noam knows what his officers and friends did today, but if he does I am sure that he is proud of them, and proud that he was a part of them."

Cohen said that on the personal level, although this operation was

important, "it does nothing to relieve the pain of the family and friends."

Cohen was killed in February in the village of Biruniya, on the western outskirts of Ramallah. Naji, who had at one time cooperated with Cohen, apparently lured him into the ambush where he was killed. Two other GSS agents were moderately wounded in that attack.

Two weeks later, the IDF raided a home in Abu Dis, killing one of the three assailants and capturing another. Since that time the security services have been looking for Naji.

Near the site where Naji and Farah were killed, a Fatah activist wrote in red paint, "Even if we agreed to peace that does not mean our blood is cheap," and "Our martyrs will not go in vain."



Othniel residents and Arabs from Rabud demonstrate for help in wiping out mosquitoes afflicting their communities near Hebron. (Brian Hendler)

## Jews, Arabs unite to take the bite out of Hebron-region mosquito plague

A SWARM of mosquitoes has succeeded in doing what politicians, idealists and peace-makers have often dreamed about, but rarely achieved.

The pesky insects bit the residents of the Jewish town of Othniel and Arab town of Rabud into action, who yesterday held a joint demonstration against the mosquito invasion which has plagued the area along Nahal Hebron.

About 100 people joined forces along a main highway, about 15 kilometers from Hebron, to demonstrate against the bloodsucking common enemy. It proved that once you scratch the surface, Ar-

abs and Israelis are itching to co-operate in at least one field.

In an area where cries of "Kill the Arabs" or "Kill the Jews" are far more frequent than "Kill the mosquitoes," motorists slowed down to ask if a clash had erupted.

Explaining their gripe, protester Avia Kedari of Othniel said on Army Radio that tens of thousands of mosquitoes breeding in the sewage-filled stream had infested their homes.

Kedari said the 10-year-old problem is particularly acute this year.

"Our children cannot sleep" because of the smell and the buzz of mosquitoes, said Mohammed Taleb Khat, from Rabud.

Asked whether the cooperation was acceptable to both communities, Khat replied, "This isn't a problem. We have a common enemy."

"We want to find a solution to this so we can all sleep peacefully," added Kedari.

A Civil Administration plane took to the skies in the morning before the demonstration to spray insecticide, following the profes-

sional advice of Environment Ministry officials.

The ministry itself has no jurisdiction over the area which is run by the civil administration but Environment Minister Yossi Sarid welcomed the Arab-Jewish joint protest.

"Mosquitoes don't differentiate between Arab and Jewish blood. Environmental problems don't make distinctions between race, religion or nationality and don't recognize borders," he said.

Further insecticide spraying is expected in the future.

Israeli and Palestinians against smoking, Page 3

## Histadrut threatens strike if receiver appointed for Clalit

JOSE ROSENFELD and MICHAEL YUDLEMAN

THE Histadrut is threatening a general strike if the government appoints a receiver for Kupat Holim Clalit.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat recommended last night that a temporary receiver be named, saying Histadrut Secretary-General-designate Haim Ramon's refusal to transfer money to the fund left him no other alternative.

Shohat said he believes that the health fund's dire financial situation immediately endangers the provision of medical services to 70 percent of the population.

The cabinet is scheduled to debate Shohat's proposal today. Labor's ministers last night met in a last ditch attempt to solve the crisis.

Outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld slammed Shohat's decision, warning it would lead to ferment in the economy, culminating in a general strike.

From his sickbed in Beilinson Hospital, Haberfeld said that this "wretched, miserable decision will not stand the test of reality and cannot be implemented."

Ramon slammed Shohat's decision last night saying, "the finance minister is among those preventing me from taking over as Histadrut secretary-general. Let me take over, I am willing to do so tomorrow and heal Kupat Holim. Don't take drastic measures."

He said Kupat Holim could be lead into recovery without going into receivership. "All of the conditions have changed now. There is a new health minister, a new leadership in the Histadrut... therefore the fund has a real chance to succeed," he said on Channel 1.

Agreeing with Ramon, Haberfeld said the government should



KUPAT HOLIM IN CRISIS

have continued helping Kupat Holim for the next three months, until Ramon assumes office and decides how to go about solving the crisis. Ramon, Haberfeld noted, has already announced he has no intention of approving any move by the Histadrut until he enters office.

The Meretz ministers will vote against appointing a receiver, following a decision by the faction yesterday. Dedi Zucker dissented, saying that without a receiver, Clalit would not recover.

According to a communiqué issued after the meeting, Meretz also demanded a letter declaring that the outgoing leadership of the Histadrut was responsible for the health fund's debts. "Without the letter, we will not take responsibility," declared the faction, which is due to take responsibility for the Histadrut - and the health fund - soon.

Y'ud faction chairman Gonen Segov said the "task of a receiver would be to streamline Kupat Holim Clalit, sell off some of its properties, and build a system with only minimal assistance from the

government."

The Likud faction issued a statement approving of Shohat's plans.

Shohat rejected accusations that the move was politically motivated. "My professional judgment, my obligations to the public, and my conscience all lead me to the conclusion on the need to rehabilitate Kupat Holim and not delay decisions for political and personal reasons," he said.

Asked why Shohat waited until after the Histadrut election to deal with the fund's financial problems, his political adviser Ohad Marani said he did not want to interfere with the elections. He added that election time is not propitious for undertaking painful recovery programs.

Marani also said that Ramon's accusation that Shohat was politically motivated angered the minister. According to him, Shohat has been pushing all along for the change of leadership to take place as soon as possible.

Earlier in the day, the Histadrut leadership decided not to sell off any of its assets, Acting Secretary-General Meir Gatt said.

Evelyn Gordon adds: Knesset finance committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) warned that the crisis in Kupat Holim could lead to Rabin's resignation.

"I very much fear that this could cause a government crisis, which would bring the prime minister [to ask for new elections]," Gal told Israel Radio.

"In the abnormal situation that exists, in which there is one coalition leading the Histadrut and another leading the government, this conflict is very dangerous," Dan Izenberg contributed to this report.

Health Ministry reassures Clalit's clients, Page 14

## Rabin: No autonomy institutions in Jerusalem

"I hope they comply; if not, we will help them"

DAN IZENBERG

ISRAEL has run into legal problems in its attempts to expel Palestinian institutions linked to the autonomy from eastern Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday.

Rabin said Israel was determined to remove the organizations, but indicated that it might take some time, according to a source who attended the meeting. The prime minister told the committee that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had made no formal request to visit Jerusalem; he added that he did not believe it would be appropriate for Arafat to visit Jerusalem now, but did not rule out the possibility two years hence.

"In the Oslo and Cairo Agreements, the Palestinians promised that all the institutions of the Palestinian authority would be located in Jericho," Rabin told reporters after the meeting. "We expect them to keep their word. I am not

referring to Jerusalem institutions for Jerusalemites living in Jerusalem. However, the place for everything related to the Palestinian authority is Jericho. I hope they comply; if not, we will help them."

However, in his briefing to the committee, Rabin indicated that it may not be so easy to move the Palestinian institutions. "There are 'new' institutions - we are making a list of them - and the question [of removing them] is now being examined not only on the basis of [Palestinian] good will but in terms of what the law allows us to do. When I know what the law says, I will report to you. I have held a number of meetings and it could be that without [additional] legislation, we will not be able to deal [with these institutions]."

Rabin shed light on his priorities regarding the territories which are at stake in the negotiations with

the Palestinians and the Syrians.

"Above all, Jerusalem," said Rabin. "Then certain territories in Judea and Samaria; the Golan Heights and Gaza in last place. There are certain areas in Judea and Samaria that are more important in security and historical terms, than the Golan Heights."

Rabin elaborated on a statement by Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shalom, who told the Knesset last week that the situation could be restored to the status quo ante in case of Palestinian violations of the agreement. "The return to the status quo ante can be total or partial," said Rabin. "But I am talking about a significant violation by the Palestinians. Arafat's speech [in Johannesburg] was scandalous. But is that a reason for the agreement to collapse?"

Rabin told the committee it was taking a long time to build a fence along the eastern edge of the Gaza

Strip because of the special construction, aimed at making it as secure and impenetrable as possible. He estimated the cost of the fence at NIS 100 million, and said it was of a higher standard than any other security fence.

In response to a question by Binjamin Netanyahu (Likud), Rabin explained that the government did not have enough money to extend the fence to the northern edge of the Gaza Strip and around three isolated settlements in the north-east corner of Gaza.

Asked about Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz's prediction of serious terrorist attacks in the next five to 10 years, Rabin replied: "May I remind you that we have had 100 years of terrorism and I made no promises about how much longer it would last. Our job is to cope with terrorism. The shouting of the right-wing only weakens our resistance."

The charge elicited vocal protests from opposition MKs.

## Setback for health insurance plan

DAN IZENBERG

THE introduction of a national health insurance plan took a giant step backwards yesterday, when the faction headed by MK Haim Ramon decided to make its implementation conditional on passage of a workers' organization law.

The workers' organization law, which could take a long time to legislate, and may in fact prove unconstitutional, is meant to replace a provision for a 'human service' tax which was to have been part of the national health insurance bill.

Committee chairman Amir Peretz decided to drop the 'human service' tax after it ran into ferocious opposition from NRP and Labor Party MKs, solidly backed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The special committee appointed to legislate a national health bill is to meet this morning to approve

the national health insurance bill transferring responsibility for medical care to the state and calling for the imposition of a universal 4.8 percent tax to pay for medical services.

Until yesterday, the bill's initiators hoped the bill would go into effect as soon as accompanying ministerial regulations were prepared, a matter of a few months. Now, however, implementation of the bill will be dependent on Knesset approval of another, problematic law.

Essentially, the aim of both the 'human service' and the workers' organization' tax is to keep the Histadrut from financial bankruptcy after the national health insurance bill goes into effect.

The national health insurance

bill terminate the Histadrut's decades-long practice of collecting the health tax on behalf of Kupat Holim Clalit, which it owns, and siphoning off 25 percent of the funds for its organizational needs.

The 'human service' tax was proposed by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat as a compromise between the Histadrut - which refused to give up its right to collect the health tax - and Ramon and his backers, who wanted to sever the link between the Histadrut and medical care.

Shohat's proposal called for severing the link, while creating a new, state-legislated tax which would guarantee continued funding for the Histadrut.

However, the 'human service' tax proved to be too problematic. The 0.8 percent tax was to have

(Continued on Page 2)

## Arafat did receive Jerusalem document - Begin

YASSER Arafat was not lying in Johannesburg when he said he had received an additional document concerning Jerusalem from Israeli officials, Likud MK Benny Begin said last night on television.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office last night denied Begin's claim, saying Rabin told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had given Arafat a copy of a speech he had delivered in the Knesset, which, among other things, had discussed the status of Jerusalem. (Irim)

## Once again Arafat suggests agreement is 'temporary'

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has again suggested his agreement with Israel is only temporary, once again likening it to the seventh century truce Mohammed made with his enemies which fell apart after two years.

In comments Monday night to a meeting of Palestinian contractors in Tunis, Arafat said the Israel-PLO deal was short-term.

"What happened was not all that we wanted, but the best we could get at the worst time," he told a meeting of Palestinian contractors. "Prophet Mohammed reached [a similar] agreement with the infidels in Hudaibia and it was torn down two years later by the infidels." He referred to Mohammed's agreement with an Ara-

bian tribe, the Kuraish. That agreement ended after two years with Mohammed's conquest of the Kuraish.

"The agreement has recognized the Palestinian entity which will blossom into a Palestinian state," Arafat said in Tunis Monday.

"What is important is that we've achieved the birth of a new state in the area and Palestinians and Arabs are bound to take it into their care and develop it," he said.

Arafat's comments came just one week after a political firestorm broke out in Israel, after it was divulged that Arafat told Moslems in Johannesburg that the Israel-PLO accord was comparable to the Hudaibia truce in 628.

## Jericho security services head confined to town

JON IMMANUEL

THE head of the Jericho security services has been barred from leaving Jericho because of a series of inflammatory statements he has made in the past week, Prime Minister Rabin said yesterday.

Since his arrival from Tunis two weeks ago, Jibril Rajoub has traveled freely outside Jericho, emphasizing that he is security chief from Jenin to Hebron. He has spoken to reporters in Dura near Hebron, to university students in Bethlehem, and Beduin in Lakiye, a township inside Israel.

On each occasion, he took a militant line towards Israel, settlers, Palestinian informers, and the peace agreement, while making conciliatory comments about opposition armed factions.

At Bethlehem University last

Tuesday, he said "settlers who violate Palestinian laws will be treated harshly," "collaborators deserve no mercy," and an opposition faction has the right to "express itself in the way it sees fit, but not take the law into its own hands." He said he opposed disarming armed factions. He called the Cairo agreement "weak and unjust." But on another occasion, he added "that it should be observed to the letter."

In Lakiye, last Saturday, he said settlers "who perpetrated the Hebron massacre could go to hell."

Security sources said they were surprised by Rabin's move, noting that other Fatah returnees had made more militant statements. Dan Izenberg contributed to this report.

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## Aloni opens network of environment research centers

LIAT COLLINS

SCIENCE Minister Shulamit Aloni crossed the Green Line yesterday to inaugurate a network of five environmental research and development centers.

The centers are financed by the ministry's Maof project and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, together with various universities. The first center, visited by Aloni, was at the Har Gilo Field School.

Each center focuses on a different subject. The Har Gilo center is equipped with a special radar to help research cloud formation and movement, as well as bird migration. Representatives of the Meteorological Service said they could use the information to help with decisions concerning cloud seeding, while Lt.-Col. Yossi Rosner, in charge of the IAF's safety division, said the data helped prevent serious accidents caused by birds flying into aircraft.

"We've learned that we must live with nature and not against it," Aloni said. "Environmental awareness has brought about recognition of the fact that we must preserve our natural resources, not just so we will have a place to go hiking but so we can live better. Our experience with draining the Hula taught us that we cannot return to slogans of covering the land in concrete and cement."

"I'm happy to see that there is awareness not just by green fundamentalist fanatics, but also by scientists," she said, adding that such centers provided employment opportunities for immigrant scientists.

Science Ministry Director-General Zvi Yanai noted that the ministry is currently providing NIS 7 million in support of environmental research projects.

Among the subjects being studied at other environmental research centers are fresh and sea water, seismological activity, and desert wildlife and vegetation.

## Immigrants double number of doctors

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE recent years' immigration wave from the former Soviet Union has doubled the number of trained doctors in Israel, but only a quarter of the arrivals have found work in their field, the Absorption Ministry said yesterday.

The 12,000 doctors who have arrived since late 1989 are equivalent to the number of those already practicing in the country, the ministry said in a statement.

Of the new arrivals, some 3,000 have found work in their field and now constitute a fifth of Israeli doctors. Another 5,000 passed equivalence exams but have not found medical positions.

The statement said that despite the saturation of their job market, 15 of every 1,000 immigrants currently arriving are doctors and 29 are nurses.

## Bezek to start emergency phone service

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK and Secutec, a Koor subsidiary, will soon offer a service that will connect subscribers to an emergency center if they lift the phone receiver for 10 seconds without dialing.

Billed as the first of its kind in the world, it is aimed primarily at elderly and sickly people who live alone, as well as working parents who leave "latch-key children" alone at home. It will be available to anyone whose phone is linked to the special digital equipment that allows use of the \*41 \*42 and \*43 service (just dial 199 to find if you are one of them). All telephones in such areas can use the service, even an old-fashioned circular-dialing phone.

The service, called *Kodem Kol*, will automatically link subscribers in distress to one of seven emergency centers. The person on duty will call an ambulance, the police, the fire service, or even an electrician or plumber, depending on the problem.

The Bezek-Secutec service will begin within two months as an experimental effort, and then expand to the rest of the country.



Amos Hansner (left), head of the Israel Anti-Smoking Society, poses with Yishai Yefet, who won \$3,000 and a flight to the Czech Republic in a lottery for people who gave up smoking, one of the events which marked World No-Tobacco Day yesterday. (Avi Hayun)

## Israeli, Palestinian anti-smoking groups join forces in Nablus

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAELIS and Nablus Palestinians have decided to join forces in the battle against smoking.

The Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking and the Anti-Smoking and Deadly Drugs Society in Nablus have jointly placed anti-tobacco advertisements in Arabic newspapers.

Amos Hansner, head of the Israel Anti-Smoking Society, said both groups will work towards reducing the smoking rate in the territories.

Hansner announced this at a Health Ministry ceremony during which he became the first Israeli to receive a medal for anti-smoking efforts from the World Health Organization.

He appealed to cigarette vendors "with a conscience" to stop selling tobacco products, so that they will not be partners to disease and death among their customers.

"Think about the fearful responsibility you are taking on yourself every day when, like placing an obstacle in front of a blind man, you knowingly sell an addictive product that may very likely cause him to die in pain and agony," Hansner said.

An anti-smoking stand set up in the Knesset yesterday did not arouse much interest among the handful of MKs in the building, but it was a big hit among Knesset

employees, who bombarded the volunteers for information on smoking-cessation courses and anti-smoking hats.

The Health Ministry and Israel Cancer Association are considering the possibility of organizing such courses in the Knesset building, as they do in numerous workplaces.

Tuvia Lehrer, chairman of the anti-smoking society, said he was optimistic that health minister-designate Dr. Ephraim Sneh would quickly sign the amendment banning smoking in all workplaces. "He is not only a physician, but his father, a doctor who

was a heavy smoker, died of cancer, so he personally knows of the risks," Lehrer said.

Liav Collins adds: Communication, Science and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni said she was not aware that yesterday had been declared World Non-Smoking Day.

"I don't believe in these sort of days which are just 'anti' everything and demonstrative," she told *The Jerusalem Post* as she lit up yet another cigarette. "Anyway at my age, I'm too old to change my habits."

"I don't think that when it comes to smoking, I have to provide a public example," added the former Education Minister.

## Yad Vashem slams both gays, protestors over memorial fracas

UNDER fire yesterday for permitting a remembrance ceremony for homosexual victims of the Nazis, Yad Vashem condemned both the participants and the protestors, saying they "brought disgrace on the site."

At Monday's ceremony, police dragged away four religious protestors who tried to disrupt the first-ever gay memorial, staged by 150 gays and lesbians from 12 North American and European countries.

Reacting to the ceremony, portions of which were shown on TV news, National Religious Party MK Shaul Yahalom demanded the resignation of Yad Vashem chairman Yosef Burg.

"This group of homosexuals and lesbians have done harm to the traditional national consensus over remembering the Holocaust," Yahalom wrote Burg. "A loud protest is called for to make up in some small way for this defilement of God's name."

Other religious protestors also condemned the ceremony as inappropriate, stressing that homosexuality is forbidden by Halacha.

Yad Vashem initially avoided comment, saying it permitted the ceremony simply in keeping with a rule allowing anyone to hold memorials to Holocaust victims.

Later yesterday, it issued a

three-paragraph statement voicing "sorrow about the provocation." It blamed both the homosexuals and those who protested their gathering, saying they "brought disgrace on the site with their violent behavior."

The statement stressed that Yad Vashem was not involved in running or sponsoring the ceremony, but that the Hall of Remembrance, where it took place, is open to all "to lay wreaths and pray, as long as this is performed in a dignified fashion."

Burg was quoted by *Hatsafah*, the NRP newspaper, as saying the gays staged a "deliberate provocation."

Defending Yad Vashem's decision to allow the service, he was quoted as saying that the gays would have petitioned the High Court and been permitted to hold the service even if authorities had tried to stop them.

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, a Holocaust survivor, criticized those who condemned the ceremony. "Recognizing an individual's right to be different is a supreme right in upholding a human and democratic social system," he said.

Weiss said Holocaust survivors should be sensitive to the suffering of homosexuals, whom he said were among "the first guinea pigs" of the Nazis. (AP)

## Transport Ministry announces crackdown on overloaded trucks

HAIM SHAPIRO

IN a crackdown on overloaded trucks, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said yesterday that his ministry would erect weighing stations at the country's ports and on the highways.

Kessar told ministry officials that he is preparing legislation which would revoke the licenses of drivers who exceeded the maximum weight load for their vehicles.

To enforce the rules, the minis-

try is to install two weighing stations each in the Ashdod and Haifa ports this year, with more to be added in the future. In addition, there are to be both permanent and movable stations on the major highways, to be operated by the ministry and the police.

According to Kessar, an overloaded truck is three times more likely to be involved in an accident than one carrying its legal maximum load.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**New asst. military secretary for PM**  
Maj. Eldad Shavit will be appointed assistant military secretary to Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Shavit, who currently serves as OC Military Intelligence Uri Saguy's executive officer, will replace Col. Amos Gilad, who was recently appointed IDF Spokesman. The military secretary to Rabin is Maj.-Gen. Danny Ya'alon.

**Gasoline prices go up**  
The price of gasoline and fuel oil goes up today, the Energy Ministry announced yesterday.

Unleaded gasoline (95 octane) will now cost NIS 1.99 a liter, up 1.5 percent; and 96 octane NIS 2.03, up 1%. Light fuel oil prices go up 2.4%, and heavy fuel oil, 4.4%.

**Artificial heart recipient dies**  
A 23-year-old woman who was attached to an artificial heart at Petaf Tikva's Bellinson

hospital on Monday died yesterday. Doctors had hoped that the unique device might keep her alive until a human heart would become available, but her condition was so serious that she had to also be attached to a dialysis machine and an artificial lung.

**Compromise on Caesarea mosque**  
A compromise was reached yesterday concerning the fate of an old mosque in Caesarea which currently houses a popular restaurant at the national park there.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, responsible for national parks, intervened on the eve of a planned High Court petition by Moslem representatives who wanted the restaurant to be recognized as an active place of worship, with free entrance to the site.

According to the compromise, the restaurant will be removed from the old mosque but the national park will continue to function regularly as a historical-archeological reserve.

## Announcing THE FIRST WORKSHOP OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARID LANDS CONSORTIUM

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Because Israel is the only arid zone nation in which deserts are not expanding, the knowledge and experience she brings in pushing back the desert will be invaluable to the workshop, the IALC and those countries that face this fundamental problem.

Representatives of many countries will be attending

The workshop will be addressed by numerous dignitaries and experts in the field, including:

- American Ambassador to Israel Edward P. Djerejian
- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres
- Minister of the Environment Yossi Sarid
- Minister of Agriculture Yacov Tzur
- JNF World Chairman Moshe Rivlin

The workshop convenes at the Laromme Jerusalem Hotel on June 19 and includes a field trip to the Negev Desert on June 22. A book will be published on the workshop's findings. Public participation is invited.

For further information, write or call Dr. Jim P.M. Chamie at the IALC, 845 N. Park Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 84719, tel.: 602-621-3024; or Mrs. Rana Hefetz at the JNF Land Development Authority, 1 Keren Kayemeth St., PO Box 283, Jerusalem 91002, Israel, tel.: 972-2-707417.

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## Mormon leader Benson dies

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Reuters) — The leader of the world's 8.7 million Mormons, Ezra Taft Benson, died Monday of congestive heart failure, the Mormon Church announced. He was 94 and died at his home in Salt Lake City.

Benson, a former US secretary of agriculture, had been in failing health in recent years and his last public appearance was at the funeral of his wife of 65 years, Flora, on August 19, 1992.

Benson was treated at LDS Hospital, owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, on Sunday night but he had returned home shortly afterward.

Benson was the 13th president of the Mormon Church, leading the organization since 1985.

Known for his outspoken conservative views, he served for eight years in President Eisenhower's cabinet as secretary of agriculture and was the first clergyman in 160

years to attain cabinet rank.

An independent thinking westerner, Benson was sharply criticized by Democrats and Republicans alike during his tenure as agriculture secretary for his opposition to government farm price support systems.

In the 1960s, after his stint in Washington, Benson presided over the European Mission of the Mormon Church, which was founded in the US in 1830.

## Man charged with killing 7 backpackers

SYDNEY (Reuters) — An Australian road worker was charged yesterday with murdering seven foreign and Australian backpackers — one of whom had her head severed by a single blow — after the biggest manhunt in the country's history.

No plea was entered by 49-year-old Ivan Milat, who listened without emotion as the murder charges were read out in a tiny court room at Campbelltown on the southern outskirts of Sydney.

But prominent Sydney lawyer John Marsden said his client was innocent, and questioned whether he would receive a fair trial because of the intense publicity surrounding the case.

The court heard how one of the bodies of seven backpackers found

in 1992 and 1993 in the Belanglo State Forest, 100 kilometers south of Sydney, had been decapitated by a single blow. Two others had been shot several times in the head.

Milat was charged with murdering Australians James Gibson and girlfriend Deborah Everist, both 19, on or about December 30, 1989; German Simone Schmidl, 20, around January 20, 1991; German Gabor Neugebauer, 21, and Anja Habschied, 20, both around December 26, 1991; and Britons Caroline Clarke, 22, and Joanne Walters, 22, around April 18, 1992.

Senior prosecutor Ian Lloyd said some victims were gagged and there was evidence some were sex-

ually assaulted.

"Habschied's head had been severed at the neck, apparently in one blow and despite an extensive search the head has not been located," Lloyd told the court.

Neugebauer had a cloth stuffed in his mouth and was shot six times in the back of the head, Lloyd said.

He said Schmidl had stab wounds to her back and Gibson died from multiple stab wounds, while Everist was shot dead. Walters also suffered stab wounds and there was evidence she was sexually assaulted. Clarke was shot 10 times in the head.

Milat was remanded in custody until his next appearance on June 28. He did not apply for bail.

## African Jewish Congress established

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Jews living in Africa called on the Organization of African Unity to recognize Israel in a statement issued Monday at the founding meeting of the African Jewish Congress.

The agreement on Palestinian autonomy prompted some African states to re-established ties with Israel, broken by most OAU members during the Six Day War.

Relations between Israel and black Africa were further strained by allegations of military coopera-

tion between Israel and the white minority government that once ruled South Africa.

Some 150 delegates and observers attended the two-day African Jewish Congress meeting. The delegates in Harare resolved to "become the voice of all Jewish communities in sub-Saharan Africa, and to coordinate cultural, religious, and social activities between their small and dispersed communities."

"This congress... expresses its full support and congratulations to

the parties engaged in the peace process on the success so far achieved, which constitutes an important contribution towards a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East," it said.

"It calls on the OAU and its member states to normalize their relations with Israel."

An estimated 100,000 Jews live in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 70,000 are South African, and most of the rest are Zimbabwean, Malawian, Zairean or Angolan, a congress spokesman said.

## German troops to again march down Champs-Elysees

MULHOUSE, France (AP) — For the first time since the war, German troops will march down the Champs-Elysees in France's traditional military parade July 14, President Francois Mitterrand announced yesterday.

Mitterrand made the announcement during his summit with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the two countries' 63rd since World War II and a meeting heavy on symbolism just days before the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

Germany has not been invited to the D-Day ceremonies, but during their two-day meeting that concluded yesterday in this border city, Mitterrand and Kohl have sought to demonstrate their coun-

tries' strong relations.

"I've decided to invite for the 14th of July the Eurocorps, and as a consequence German, Belgian, Luxembourg and Spanish members will participate," Mitterrand said, referring to the fledgling European army founded by France and Germany.

July 14th, or Bastille Day, the anniversary of the Revolution in 1789, traditionally includes a military parade down Paris' grandest avenue between the Arc de Triumf and Place de la Concorde.

The image of this year's parade would be in sharp contrast to the one during World War II, when Hitler's troops goose-stepped down the Champs-Elysees to the

horror of the vanquished French.

Earlier yesterday, the two countries reaffirmed their intention to jointly build a military transport plane. France also urged Germany to join in a military reconnaissance satellite program.

Kohl also returned paintings looted from France by Hitler's troops during World War II. The 28 works had hung in an East German museum since the war.

After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, German authorities tried to track down the rightful owners.

One painting, an untitled canvas by Claude Monet from the 1870s, shows a snowy road in the countryside near Paris.

## Defrocked Muslim preacher held in assassination attempt

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — The man accused of trying to assassinate former Nation of Islam spokesman Khalid Abdul Mohammed was a defrocked minister in the sect who police said had armed himself heavily before the attack.

James Edward Bess allegedly used a .9mm pistol in the attack, hitting Mohammed in the legs and wounding four bodyguards and a bystander outside the university auditorium where the black Muslim leader was speaking on Sunday.

Police also found two loaded .9mm handguns in a backpack and a loaded rifle with a scope in a car nearby, Police Chief Ken Fortier said. Both the backpack and the car were believed to belong to Bess.

Fortier also said police were trying to learn the source of a note that was handed to Mohammed on stage, moments before the shooting. Mohammed read the note, and then suggested that the crowd leave the auditorium.

"I don't see it as a diversion," Fortier said, discounting the possibility of a conspiracy to lure Mohammed outside to the relatively unprotected parking lot. "The note does not appear to be significant."

Fortier gave no motive for the attack but said police believe Bess acted alone. The police chief said Bess would be charged with six

counts of attempted murder.

Bess, 49, of Tacoma, Wash., was expelled as a minister three years ago because his preaching differed from church doctrine and he was trying to set up his own power base, the retired founder of the Seattle chapter of the Nation of Islam told The New York Times.

"Though he would use the Islamic cloak, he was trying to start his own following," Raquib Mueed said.

Still, Bess continued to support Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan on public-access cable TV in Seattle and wrote in newspaper columns that Farrakhan was "The Second Coming of Jesus."

Syid Suni Askia, a member of Seattle's small black Muslim community who has long known both Bess and Mohammed, said it was public knowledge that Bess was at odds with the people surrounding Farrakhan.

"He had differences with the way Mohammed presented Farrakhan," Askia said.

Mohammed was suspended as Farrakhan's senior aide after a November speech in which he called Jews "the bloodsuckers" of the black community, called the pope a "no-good cracker" and urged the killing of South African whites.

Both Bess and Khalid Mohammed remained hospitalized yesterday under police guard. Bess was in satisfactory condition with a broken shoulder and other injuries. Mohammed, 46, was in stable condition with gunshot wounds to both legs.

Mohammed was out of bed and walking around, said Nation of Islam security guards, who refused to give their names. The leaders hadn't signed a release allowing doctors to remove a bullet, a hospital administrator said. Two of the four wounded security guards and the bystander who was shot also remained hospitalized, one in serious condition.

Mohammed was shot in a parking lot after he unexpectedly left through an unguarded door following a two-hour speech at the University of California at Riverside. During the speech, he said whites are satanic and Jewish oppressors.

Witnesses said Mohammed was answering questions when he was shot from less than 10 feet away. A crowd of up to 70 people — some yelling, "He works for the Jews!" — beat the gunman bloody before police rescued him.

"That man would be dead" if police hadn't drawn their guns and pulled him away, university spokesman Jack Chappell said.

## Farrakhan aide long held racist views

GEORGE E. JORDAN

WASHINGTON

NEARLY two decades ago in Uganda, Khalid Abdul Mohammed said he was aiding dictator Idi Amin's dream of overthrowing the white South African government when he got on the telephone with his old friend, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan in Chicago.

Farrakhan asked for help re-starting the Nation of Islam, which Mohammed had abandoned after the death of its founder and the religious organization's renunciation of white separatism.

"I was in Kampala, Uganda, ready to kill some white folks when I put the call through," Mohammed, 48, said February 19 in a speech in Baltimore. "I thought the Nation of Islam was gone, never to come back again. From that point on, I have been at the side of Minister Louis Farrakhan in the rebuilding of the Nation of Islam."

Mohammed, who was virtually unknown outside the black community until his now infamous antisemitic speech on November 29 at Kean College in New Jersey, has specialized for years in acerbic denunciations of whites, Jews, Catholics and mainstream black leaders.

He was one of Farrakhan's most trusted aides before he was demoted in February for his rhetoric at Kean College, which included calling Jews "bloodsuckers." At the closed-door rally in Baltimore, Mohammed defended his remarks, saying, "Never will I say I am not an antisemite."

And he explained that his harsh public rhetoric was to help strengthen Farrakhan's standing by being the "lightning rod to attract the opposition."

To his supporters, Mohammed is what one writer has called the high priest of "theological gangster rap," an extremist mix of the Old Testament and the Nation of Islam's old "white devil" dogma delivered in rapid-fire speeches. His mocking attacks remind them of the oratory of the young Farrakhan.

"I don't have any love for the other side. It's not in me. I don't want no integration. I want independence for a nation of my own," he said in February in Baltimore.



Khalid Abdul Mohammed gestures as he speaks at Trenton State College, Ewing, N.J., on February 28, 1994. He offered a conciliatory speech, saying he came not to teach hate but to teach blacks to love themselves. (AP file)

Mohammed, born Harold Moore Vann, calls himself a "knowledge gangster" and "truth terrorist" who has a large following among mostly young black college radicals, West Coast gang members and old-line black nationalists.

They flock to his speeches around the country by the hundreds, and his fame has been spread among the hip-hop generation by prominent rap artists incorporating excerpts from his speeches in their songs. There exists a whole underground network in major urban centers that circulates audio and videotapes of Mohammed's fiery lectures.

"The brother has a spirit," said Professor Griff, a former member of the rap group Public Enemy, which in 1989 became the first to include excerpts of Mohammed's speeches in its songs. "If you are about to revolution and change you have to lend him your heart as well as your ear."

Griff said he first learned of Mo-

hammad from an audio tape of a

speech offered by a friend. Like many of Mohammed's admirers, Griff said his remarks at Kean College were not his harshest. "It's nothing new. It was light compared to some of the things [tapes] I have."

Federal court records, interviews with longtime friends and supporters and a review of audio tapes of nearly a dozen of his speeches since 1976 obtained by New York Newsday paint the picture of a man firmly grounded on the fringes of radical black politics.

Mohammed has gone by at least six aliases since 1976, while his wife of at least six years, Jennifer Hillings Moore, has gone by at least two aliases, records show.

He was minister of Mohammed's Mosque 7 in Harlem for only a year before being named Farrakhan's national spokesman. That move marked a turning point for Mohammed, who began to crisscross the nation, stepping up his attacks on Jews and whites in

the name of black empowerment. Mohammed ratcheted up his volume at a time Farrakhan sought to soften his image and to forge alliances with national elected and civil rights leaders. Both Mohammed and Farrakhan have insisted the flap over the Kean College speech has not created a rift.

Despite his demotion, Mohammed has continued to speak out. He has founded a youth organization, Unity Nation, that is active in the Washington-Baltimore area.

"Right now Khalid just fills a void," said a third-generation black Muslim from Brooklyn who maintains an archive of Nation of Islam speeches. He requested anonymity. "Farrakhan is trying to be more diplomatic, but Khalid is just like an early Farrakhan. He sounds just like an early Farrakhan. His makeup is a warrior spirit."

Mohammed was born in Texas. He has said he joined the Chicago-based Nation of Islam in 1967, after hearing Farrakhan speak at Dillard University in New Orleans, where Mohammed was an undergraduate student between 1966 and 1970.

The Nation of Islam began in 1930, when Elijah Mohammed followed the teachings of a Detroit salesman named Wallace Fard, who preached he was the incarnation of Allah. One of the secretive organization's basic tenets was the belief that blacks were chosen by God to form their own nation separate from whites.

Arguably one of its most famous members, Malcolm X, renounced the group's racial politics and left the organization before his assassination in 1965.

Khalid Mohammed was active in the Nation of Islam in various cities until 1975, when Elijah Mohammed died and his son, Warith Deen, denounced white separatism and began to push the organization toward mainstream orthodox Islam.

Khalid Mohammed remained with the group under the name Malek Rashadeen for a year before dropping out and moving to Africa. In 1977, he returned when Farrakhan, a Boston native, born Louis Eugene Walcott, asked him to help revive the separatist Nation of Islam.

Newsday

## SA rejoins Commonwealth

LONDON (AP) — South Africa takes another step back into the world community today when it officially rejoins the Commonwealth, an organization of Britain and its former colonies.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeke Anyaoku announced "with a special sense of joy" that South Africa will become the 51st member of the Commonwealth on June 1 following "the end of apartheid and the dawn of freedom."

South Africa's membership was suspended 33 years ago because of its policy of racial separation.

"I believe South Africa's return to the Commonwealth will be one way... of putting the seal on the principles of the Commonwealth, namely democracy and pluralism," Anyaoku told a news conference yesterday.

"The return of a non-racial democratic South Africa... is a boost for the association, not least in the task of making the world safer for diversity," he said.

Queen Elizabeth II, who heads the Commonwealth, sent a message of congratulations to South African President Nelson Mandela.

The Commonwealth's members agreed in October 1993 to welcome a non-racist and democratic South Africa back into the organization at the earliest opportunity after elections, which were held last month.

Last week, the UN Security Council ended a 10-year ban on countries buying arms from South Africa. The ban was the last of a series of sanctions imposed by the United Nations to pressure South Africa to end white-minority rule.

The Commonwealth plans to co-sponsor a conference with the United Nations in mid-September for potential donors "to help South Africa make up for the huge gaps made by years of apartheid," Anyaoku said.

"South Africa will — I expect — be at the Commonwealth Games in Canada later this year," Anyaoku said. The games, from Aug. 18-28, are being held in Victoria.

To mark South Africa's return to the Commonwealth, a multi-faith service will be held at Westminster Abbey on July 20, attended by Queen Mother Queen Elizabeth and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

## Baron Bich, Bic Pen creator, dies

PARIS (AP) — Baron Marcel Bich, who built his empire by creating throwaway Bic pens, razors and lighters, has died, family members said yesterday. He was 79.

Bich, also known for his repeated entries in the Americas Cup, died Monday night in Paris, the family said in a communique. The cause of his death was not given.

Born July 29, 1914, in Turin,

Italy, to a baroness and a baron who was an engineer, Bich studied in French secondary schools, opted for French citizenship and studied law in Paris. He began his career as a fountain pen salesman.

The cheap, throwaway pen Bich introduced in the early 1950s became a bit worldwide, and he later produced Bic razors and lighters using the same concept.

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Kfar Saba Municipal Cultural Hall (youth choir contest)  
Binyanei Ha'uma (winds orchestra)  
Kfar Saba, Jerusalem (vocal groups)

Main events on Music and Dance Day, Thursday, June 2:

Tel Aviv Museum (finals of youth choir contest)  
Neve Eliezer (Special Education concert)  
Megiddo Regional Council (National Dance Day)  
Jiner a-Zarka (The Israel Ballet and the Bat-Sheva Dance Company)

Baka Masawa (student dance performance)  
Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv (matinee concert for students, Philharmonic Orchestra)  
Tel Aviv Museum (Israel Chamber Orchestra)

Other Special Music and Dance Events

will take place at Yavne, Beit Arye, Bat Yam, Upper Galilee, Yoav, She'ar Hanegav, Ramla, Rishon LeZion, Ra'anana, Karmiel, Ness Ziona, Nazareth, Tel Sheva, Haifa, Tiberias, Upper Nazareth, Kiryat Shmona, Petah Tikva, Ramat Gan, Givat Brenner, Kochav Yair, Ma'aleh Ephraim, Bnei Brak, Yehud, Mateh Yehuda, Beersheba, Baka el Gharbiya, Debunya.

Educational Television and Kol Yisrael will devote broadcasts to Music and Dance Day.

In cooperation with Omerut La'am, there will be listening and creative workshops for music and dance, and these will be open to the public. Most schools, kindergartens, matnasim, cultural halls, conservatoria, and community centers throughout Israel are organizing events, at which they will host choirs, youth groups, student and young performers, immigrants and veterans, from all sectors of society and all fields of Israeli culture - singers, conductors, choirs, orchestras, vocal groups, composers, dancers, and choreographers, of all styles and schools.

Israel Music and Dance Day 1994, the first such day, was initiated by Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, and Mrs. Shulamit Aloni, Minister of Science and the Arts.

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# Rostenkowski indicted for corruption

## Influential Clinton ally confident he'll be vindicated

A FEDERAL grand jury indicted a top congressional ally of President Clinton on 17 charges of corruption in office yesterday.

The charges against Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, include mail fraud, wire fraud, tampering with a witness, concealing a material fact, embezzlement of public funds, and aiding and abetting a crime.

As head of the committee which approves the government's budget, Rostenkowski is one of the most powerful figures in Washington and a key player in Clinton's attempt to establish a national health care system.

Rostenkowski, a Democrat from Chicago, has been under in-

vestigation for two years.

He was suspected of padding his payroll with employees who did no work and cashing in office stamps for personal gain.

The indictment, a formal list of charges, came a day after Rostenkowski defiantly rejected a plea agreement and vowed to fight government allegations that he defrauded taxpayers of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"I am confident that I will be vindicated," Rostenkowski said in a statement Monday.

The indictment will force him to step aside as Ways and Means chairman.

Rostenkowski's decision to fight the charges meant, under House rules, that he must give up his powerful chairmanship at a time

LARRY MARGASAK

WASHINGTON

the committee is playing a central role in the health care reform debate.

But Rostenkowski, 66, will remain a member of the House, and of the Ways and Means Committee.

He vowed to seek a 19th term even as he fights the charges.

Fellow Democratic Rep. Sam Gibbons is in line to take over the committee, among the most powerful in Congress because of its jurisdiction over taxes, Social Security and the financing of many other major programs.

Grand jury proceedings usually are secret, but because of the plea

negotiations, it was clear the government was ready to charge Rostenkowski if he did not reach an agreement with prosecutors.

So Washington began assessing the impact of his departure as chairman even before the indictment was officially issued.

Asked whether Rostenkowski's departure would hurt health care reform, Vice President Al Gore said, "No. There's a lot of momentum for health care."

"He's been an important player on health care... and certainly the members have made it clear they will continue to work with him, and that's true of the White House as well," Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Friday.

Rostenkowski has hired Robert Bennett, a Washington lawyer

who is also defending President Clinton in a civil case brought by a former Arkansas state employee who claims that the then-governor tried to make her perform oral sex.

The outline of the government's case against Rostenkowski includes a charge that he obtained cash illegally from the House Post Office. Former House Postmaster Robert Rota has alleged that he transferred \$21,000 to Rostenkowski.

It also claims that Rostenkowski had a number of so-called ghost employees, who did no work, on his office payroll and that he improperly used government funds to buy expensive gifts for friends from the House office supply service.

# UN suspends Rwanda activity after officer killed by mortar blast

KIGALI (Reuters) - The UN mission in Rwanda suspended all operations after a senior officer with its force was killed by a mortar blast yesterday.

The development could prolong the agony of thousands of civilians from both the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes trapped in each other's strongholds under fear of attack.

Fighting between rebels and government troops for control of the capital forced a halt to the process after evacuations on Friday and Saturday but the UN had hoped its convoys would start ferrying civilians as early as yesterday.

The UN force known as UNAMIR said all movement of officers and convoys had been suspended until the situation stabilized.

The dead officer, identified only as a Senegalese, was a UN observer described by a colleague as "the bravest man in the outfit" and one of the most experienced in UNAMIR.

He was hit in his UN car on a city center bridge just inside the government-held part of the city. The UN made clear the shell was fired from a rebel position.

A UN armored personnel carrier and several vehicles rushed to the scene, where the officer was still in his car with a large piece of shrapnel in his head. He was the 12th peacekeeper killed in Rwanda since violence flared on April 6.

"It is inhuman to ask someone to go out when he sees his friend has fallen," UNAMIR's deputy force commander Brigadier-General Henry Anyidoho told reporters. "We have tried to talk to both [warring] sides every day to let us continue humanitarian assistance. They just don't seem to listen."

The dead peacekeeper was a liaison officer with the Rwanda Patriotic Front rebels and was helping protect thousands of civilians, mainly Tutsis trapped behind front lines. He was returning to UNAMIR after a patrol when he was hit.

The officer's death came hard on the heels of reports of a new massacre, itself a threat to UN peace plans in Rwanda.

Earlier the UN rushed investigators to a camp in government-held territory where aid workers said 500 people were massacred on Saturday.

# Croats, Moslems to choose leaders

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - Moslems were fighting Serbs across much of Bosnia yesterday, but joined their former Croat enemies to elect leaders for a joint federation that would cover part of the republic.

Kresimir Zubak, the Croat leader elected president of the new Moslem-Croat federation, invited Bosnian Serbs to join the federation.

But the Serbs, who hold 70 percent of the land after more than two years of war, have rejected such a linkup and insist instead on their right to join neighboring, Serb-led Yugoslavia.

Ejup Ganic, a member of the presidency of the Moslem-led Bosnian government, was named vice president of the new federation by the meeting in Sarajevo. He and Zubak were elected unanimously.

The US-mediated federation agreement last March united the Moslems, who accounted for 43 percent of Bosnia's pre-war population, and the Croats, who made up 17 percent.

Zubak said the federation would be "based on the absolute equality of our ethnic groups."

The two communities cooperated at the start of the war, but later fought a bitter, year-long battle for control of central Bosnia.

Fighting raged across much of Bosnia Tuesday as government forces and Bosnian Serbs battled for control of communication lines.

Moslem-led government troops were reported to be continuing a series of thrusts aimed at winning control of strongholds enabling the Serbs to keep much of central Bosnia within range of their artillery.

Both sides are trying to improve their battlefield positions before UN-sponsored talks on a general cease-fire, scheduled for Geneva tomorrow and Friday.

Belgrade's *Vecernje Novosti* daily yesterday cited Gen. Momir Tadic, a Bosnian Serb corps commander, as warning the Moslems to stop their offensives or face a counterattack.

On Monday, Bosnian military chief Gen. Rasim Delic said, "The time of our defensive tactics is over."

# N. Yemenis break through briefly near Aden

TOUR AL-BAHA FRONT, Yemen (Reuters) - Northern Yemeni troops advanced on the southern Yemeni stronghold of Aden on a new front yesterday, with their leaders proclaiming that the end of the civil war was near.

A government minister in Sana'a said a pre-dawn military thrust on the Tour al-Baha front had enabled northern forces to link up and had put the capital of the breakaway southern state within range of their artillery.

But southern military com-

manders said that the attack, on the day the UN Security Council was due to debate calls for a truce in the four-week civil war, had been repulsed.

"They penetrated our lines, but they have endured heavy losses and are retreating now," said Major Shakh Noman, 37, assistant to southern chief of staff Brigadier Omar al-Attas.

"We had not given this front sufficient importance," Major Muthana Askar said to explain the northern breakthrough after sev-

eral days of apparent stalemate.

The northern forces thrust 100 kilometers along a flat desert road northwest of Aden but by midday when this correspondent visited the front they had been pushed back.

Sana'a Radio called on soldiers in the port city to attack the strongholds of southern leader Ali Salem Baird, the Yemeni vice-president who on May 21 pulled out of the 1990 agreement that united traditionalist North Yemen

and formerly Marxist South Yemen.

"The hour of salvation from the band of treachery, treason and machination... is drawing near," said the radio in a broadcast monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Before being turned back, the northern thrust had reached a point less than 40 kilometers by road from Aden's outskirts and directly across the desert sands from the town of Little Aden, site of the south's only oil refinery.



Tu Wen-ching of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party stands atop a table as he argues with the Nationalists' Cha Ching-chuan (r) during yesterday's National Assembly brawl. (Reuters)

# Free-for-all erupts in Taiwan's National Assembly

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - About 40 National Assembly deputies traded punches and kicks yesterday when the assembly began a special three-month session to discuss constitutional reforms.

Several deputies suffered scratches in the hour-long brawl, which erupted when deputies from the opposition Democratic Progressive Party protested the size of the quorum needed for daily meetings.

The governing Nationalist Party, which dominates the assembly,

had announced earlier that daily meetings could be held when one-third of the 402 members were present.

Opposition member Cheng Pao-ching traded punches with Chen Yi-hsiung of the Nationalist Party as other deputies joined in the fighting.

DPP deputy Du Wen-chin, claiming he was kicked by a Nationalist, jumped on the podium, ripped out the microphones and tossed all documents on the floor.

"This Nationalist assembly

should have been abolished long ago," opposition deputy Tsai Ming-hua shouted.

The violence ended when the presiding officer called a recess.

The opposition wanted the quorum set at two-thirds, and said Nationalist members wanted it set lower so they could skip much of the lengthy session.

The Nationalists have 320 deputies in the assembly, which elects the president and is empowered to amend the constitution.

The assembly is expected to ap-

prove a Nationalist proposal to hold Taiwan's first popular election for president in 1996.

The DPP supports direct presidential elections, but also wants to abolish the assembly, which did not become fully elected until 1991.

Previously, many seats had been held by members chosen in China before the Nationalists fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to the Communists on the mainland.

# Mubarak tells non-aligned to change or die

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak opened a non-aligned foreign ministers meeting yesterday, telling the movement it had to change or face irrelevance in the post-Cold War world.

In a keynote address, Mubarak said the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), founded in 1961 as a haven for countries that wanted to avoid being dragged into the East-West stand-off, had to "face new realities... in this changing world."

"If we don't act with open minds and great adaptability, we will be justifying the argument that the movement has become empty of content, an image without reality," he said.

"Rigidity is the road to destruction," Mubarak declared. "Renewal and development are... the only way towards survival and progress."

In one sign of changed times, South Africa was admitted as a full member of the NAM following its transition to majority rule after all-party elections in April.

Delegates clapped as South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo was led to a seat in the conference hall. The move raised the movement's membership to 109.

The NAM has been trying to modernize itself since the Cold War, swapping the angry rhetoric of the past for phrases about partnership and cooperation with the rich North.

# Kuwait: Russia not wavering on Iraq sanctions

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia is suffering financially as a result of UN sanctions against Iraq but is not pressing other Security Council members to have them lifted, senior Kuwaiti officials said yesterday.

Parliament speaker Ahmad al-Saadoun, leading a delegation that visited the United States, Canada and Russia, said Moscow was insisting that Baghdad comply with all UN resolutions.

"We have not seen any differences with regard to the necessity of Iraq complying with all the reso-

lutions. Otherwise the sanctions will continue," al-Saadoun said.

"I have never seen any pressure on the side of Russia or other countries that sanctions have to be lifted before compliance."

Moscow, a former Iraqi ally and arms supplier, has backed the United Nations in maintaining the sanctions despite opposition from headline communists and nationalists and big losses resulting from Baghdad's failure to repay debts.

Russian officials estimate the debts at more than \$6 billion. Iraq will be unable to repay until the

Gulf War sanctions are lifted and it is allowed to reenter the world oil market.

Former Kuwaiti oil minister Ali Ahmed al-Baghi said the three-nation tour had shown unanimous backing for maintaining sanctions until U.N. demands were met.

"Russia has the same position as other countries. They said that although they were affected by the sanctions... they would maintain their position no matter the sacrifice," he said.

Al-Saadoun said Iraq, which has been campaigning for an early end

to sanctions, must recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity and release more than 600 Kuwaiti and other prisoners whom he said were being held in Iraq.

He said the two main questions were "detainees and demarcation of borders". Iraq, which wants recognition of its efforts to comply with a U.N. disarmament order, denies it is holding Kuwaiti prisoners.

Russia, China and France have indicated they would like some recognition of Iraqi progress.



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# HOW TO TAKE A CHANCE

This is how you fill in a Chance card - Mifal Hapayis' new, daily game:

1. Choose the Chance you want - Chance 1, Chance 2, Chance 3, Chance 4, or Rav Chance, and mark the appropriate column.

מספר	מספר	מספר	מספר	מספר
4	3	2	1	1
—	—	—	—	—

2. Depending on which Chance you have chosen, you guess cards and mark them - one mark in each row. (For example, if you choose Chance 1, you mark one card in one of the four rows.) Remember, in no case do you mark more than four cards.)

♠	7	8	9	10	J	Q	K	A	♠
♥	7	8	9	10	J	Q	K	A	♥
♦	7	8	9	10	J	Q	K	A	♦
♣	7	8	9	10	J	Q	K	A	♣

Rav Chance - Guess four cards and mark them - one mark in each of four rows.

- \* If you guess four right - you win 1,000 times your stake.
- \* If you guess three right - you win 30 times your stake.
- \* If you guess two right - you win twice your stake.

Chance 4 - Guess four cards and mark them - one mark in each of four rows.

If you guess four right - you win 2,000 times your stake. If you don't guess four right - take another Chance.

Chance 3 - Guess three cards and mark them - one mark in each of three rows.

If you guess three right - you win 300 times your stake. If you don't guess three right - take another Chance.

Chance 2 - Guess two cards and mark them - one mark in each of two rows.

If you guess two right - you win 30 times your stake. If you don't guess two right - take another Chance.

Chance 1 - Guess one card and mark it - one mark in one row.

If your guess comes up - you win 4 times your stake. If you don't guess right - take another Chance.

3. Decide your stake - you have 7 possibilities.

2	5	10	30	50	100	200
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

# TAKE A CHANCE

Mifal Hapayis' New Game  
New draw every day



# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## Ben-Yair's record

WHEN Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair was appointed last fall, ministers officials reacted indignantly to media speculation that he had been chosen to help advance the government's political agenda. The primary suspicion was that he intended to bury the criminal case against former interior minister Aryeh Deri.

Unfortunately, Ben-Yair soon lent credence to these suspicions by announcing that while Deri should be indicted for illegal transfers of funds when he was minister, the government would not present the charge sheet until Deri's first trial, slated to begin next month, is concluded. Given the ponderous pace of the Israeli justice system, this could well take years.

Ben-Yair said the delay was needed to allow Deri to concentrate on the current trial. But the press may be forgiven for suspecting that its real aim was to ease the government's coalition negotiations with Shas.

Public unease regarding the attorney-general grew when he declared the Council of Settlements a seditious body. He had to reverse himself within days. Then, in the wake of the Hebron massacre he launched a campaign against right-wing extremists which prompted the Association for Civil Rights in Israel to take the unusual step of sending a letter of protest over a Kach activist's administrative detention.

Even more worrisome was Ben-Yair's defense of the decision to implement the detentions by military order rather than under Israeli law, which requires the detainees to be taken before a judge. By choosing to live in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, Ben-Yair said, Jewish settlers had forfeited the basic judicial rights given other Israeli citizens, since Israeli law does not apply in the territories.

Most recently, Ben-Yair has taken the ill-conceived step of picking a public fight with perhaps the country's most respected personality: State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat. In an apparent attempt to defend the government against Ben-Porat's scathing recent report, he accused her of overdramatizing it. In fact, he charged, the report had so little meat only two items in it were worthy of possible criminal investigation — a charge which Ben-Porat disproved the next day by asking him to investigate at least two additional matters.

It would be comforting to believe that the problem is personal rather than institutional — that the cabinet simply made an unfortunate choice of attorney-general this time around.

But the root of the problem lies in the way the attorney-general is chosen. He is appointed by the cabinet at the recommendation of the prime minister and the justice minister, and he serves at the cabinet's pleasure, rather than for a fixed term. Under these circumstances, it is hardly surprising that pressure to toady to the government is often irresistible.

Recently, MK Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) submitted a bill to change this system. Cohen would have the attorney-general elected by the Knesset in secret ballot, like the president and the state comptroller, for a maximum of two consecutive five-year terms. Only the Knesset would have the power to remove him from his post.

This arrangement would be an improvement. Despite its highly politicized nature, the Knesset has a surprisingly good record for choosing presidents and state comptrollers who are widely respected by the general public, and who think and act independently. Limiting the attorney-general to one term, to avoid any incentive for currying favor in the hope of reappointment, might be an even greater improvement.

Unfortunately, the ministerial committee on legislation has decided to oppose the bill, saying it didn't like the technical arrangements Cohen proposed.

There is nothing wrong with proposing alternative arrangements, but under no circumstances should the present system be allowed to continue.

Democracies thrive only as long as there is respect for the rule of law. Such respect will not last long if those entrusted with guarding the law are perceived as bending it for political ends.

## Desecrating Yad Vashem

IF there is one institution in this contentious country on which there is a solid, unshakable national consensus, it is Yad Vashem. The memorial/museum of the Holocaust is more than a national shrine. It is a repository of the nation's collective memory; a reminder of the commonality of Jewish destiny.

That is why strife, protests and demonstrations do not belong in Yad Vashem. The place is hallowed ground in the most meaningful sense of the word. To bring controversy into it, let alone rowdiness and violence, is to insult Israel and the Jewish people.

Unfortunately, there are those who place their own political-religious agenda above Yad Vashem's standing and purpose. On Sunday, a dozen such thoughtless, rude people disrupted a dignified commemoration ceremony held by 150 Jewish homosexuals and

lesbians at Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance. The prayer meeting was held to pay tribute to "our lesbian sisters and gay brothers" who were slaughtered in the Holocaust. Only the bigoted, intolerant and disturbed can find fault in such a ceremony, and only the irresponsible and fanatic can precipitate a violent fracas to disrupt it.

One of the gay participants expressed anger at *The Jerusalem Post* for publishing an offensive, virulent advertisement against homosexuals, signed by a group of rabbis. His anger is understandable. But even targets of bigotry must remember that freedom of expression is not an abstract concept. It means living up to Voltaire's injunction to defend the right of the most noxious opinions to be published. Sadly, the sponsors of the advertisement do not seem to believe in granting others the freedom of expression they themselves enjoy.



## Unmistakable messages

ARIEL SHARON

THE government used the abduction of Sh'ite leader Mustafa Dirani to try and prove that our strength is still something to write home about. Boasted the prime minister: "The IDF, which has been serving as an army of occupation, has restored its image as Israel's defending army."

It's as if the unit which struck deep in Lebanon couldn't have done it any earlier because it was busy chasing kids through the alleyways of Khan Yunis.

I wish the government would stop telling us stories. We know what the IDF should be doing.

Eliminating terrorists, for example. Isn't that the army's duty? How about some adequate guarding, some rapid reaction to prevent our soldiers being killed at their post at the Erez checkpoint? Isn't that the army's duty? And when soldiers get killed, what about some hot pursuit in order to hit the murderers?

It's very important that the IDF's image as "Israel's defense army" be preserved. So is thwarting the murder of civilians on the Beersheba-Hebron highway, and in Afula, Misgav Am, Hadera, the Katif sector and Jerusalem.

I'm still furious about an IDF patrol's demand that a Jewish truck driver return to a Palestinian checkpoint from which he had driven away in fear of his life, after being fired at. Explained a senior Israeli military figure hurriedly: "The Palestinian police acted as required. We have no complaints about them."

Even if that driver was wrong, it was disgusting to send him back into the hands of PLO terrorists masquerading in police uniforms — who even earned the prime minister's praise for accuracy in aiming at the truck's tires.

The Palestinians have long known whom they are dealing with. IDF commanders have approached them, shaken their hands warmly. Sometimes they have even grasped the terrorist "generals" hand with both of theirs like supplicants, showing the orderly files of the installations they were handing over.

The government is telling Arabs: 'You have the right to kill us'

Our commanders have openly expressed their joy while handing over various newly whitewashed structures, their cracks filled, as if to say: "General, the toilets are clean and scrubbed!" But all the new owners do is glance at them contemptuously and reply, "We're in Jericho, but we're aiming at Jerusalem!"

This isn't how the army of an independent state acts. Courtesy, yes. Self-abasement, no.

THE PALESTINIANS aren't slow to grasp the hints. When they hear that "the Palestinian police are behaving better than expected," they understand that they can continue running wild. When they hear that "our soldiers are paying the price for not uprooting settlements," it becomes clear to them that attacks on settlements and Jewish settlers will only advance their cause.

Before two murdered soldiers are even buried, an Israeli spokesman tells the world media: "We understand the Palestinians' difficulties, but if this continues and the worst happens, we shall be forced to react." All the Palestinians have to do is try and estimate what that "worst" might be.

There is to be no retaliation for killing two soldiers. Would the prime minister think three soldiers were overdoing it? What about five, or 10? Not to mention the settlers, whose blood the government has long held cheap.

I am particularly apprehensive about the prime minister's statement that "as long as the occupation exists and Palestinian resistance to our rule continues, we shall pay for it in blood."

This is like telling the Palestinians in Jerusalem and Judea, Samaria and Gaza: "Carry on killing. It's your right, and our fault. After all, we are ruling you, against your will, in Jerusalem." And the same goes for Israeli Arabs, whose leaders visit Gaza and recommend continued struggle until Jerusalem becomes the capital of Palestine.

The premier is, in effect, telling Israel's Arabs: "You too have the right to kill us, since we are ruling you, and you are another people." What a frightful distortion.

Palestinian terrorists slaughtered hundreds of Israeli civilians — men, women and children — before we liberated Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

So what is the prime minister talking about? What kind of government is this? Who is it walking arm-in-arm with, and who is it working against?

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former minister of defense.

## For pay, they'll go away

KHALIL JAHSHAN  
WILLIAM QUANDT  
JEROME M. SEGAL

tion. In short, those who leave early will be rewarded.

There are now approximately 25,000 Israeli families living in the territories. If, in each of the next five years, 4,000 families took advantage of the program, the cost would be just over \$1 billion dollars, a limited part of the total \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

Logic dictates a government-assisted exodus of settlers now

A PROGRAM of this sort would not draw the most ideological of the settlers from the territories, and smaller groups of extremists committed to violence would also not be expected to leave in response to financial incentives. But polls show that even now, more than 30 percent of the settlers are ready to leave if compensation is provided. And this number will grow once the process is started.

The program could be implemented unilaterally by the Israeli government. No negotiations with the Palestinians are required, and no coercion would be involved. Moreover, it would still leave open the future of the settlements themselves and of those settlers who remain.

By agreement, those issues are to be dealt with in the final-status negotiations, which, according to the Declaration of Principles, are to "commence as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period."

The advantages of assisting the

settlers to leave now are compelling.

By reducing the size of the settler population, the problem of dealing with settlements in the final status negotiations will be significantly easier, both to negotiate and to implement. Indeed, if this is not done, the settlement question may prove "a deal breaker" in the final status talks.

A government-assisted exodus of settlers would also send the clearest possible signal to the Palestinians that the Israel is serious about ultimately withdrawing from the West Bank. This would greatly strengthen the position of Palestinian moderates.

Moreover, a major return of settlers from the territories would help limit violence in coming years. With respect to extremists on the Israeli side, it would demonstrate that the effort to create permanent facts on the ground has failed, and that Israelis were leaving the territories regardless of attempts by extremists to disrupt negotiations.

An exodus of settlers from the territories would also refute the claim of Palestinian extremists that the only way to end the occupation is to mount violent attacks on Israelis.

The precedent of ample compensation paid to settlers who left the Sinai when peace was achieved with Egypt has created an expectation of compensation among settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. They will not leave without it. The real choice is whether the process begins now, or in five years. Logic says do it now.

Khalil Jahshan is executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans. William Quandt is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Jerome M. Segal, president of the Jewish Peace Lobby, is a research scholar at the University of Maryland.

(Washington Post)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### AMERICAN JEWISH POLLS

Sir, — The latest poll claiming that 88 percent of American Jews support "the peace process" was an exercise in deception, using flawed questions to obtain results that suited the political preferences of the poll's left-wing sponsor.

The poll was sponsored by the Israel Policy Forum, headed by Jonathan Jacoby, a veteran left-wing activist. Back in 1980, before the PLO was even pretending to be moderate, Jacoby signed an ad in *The New York Times* calling for "national self-determination for the Palestinian people." During the Lebanon war, he signed another *Times* ad accusing Israel of "state terrorism." More recently, Jacoby served as president of Americans For Peace Now. When he became head of the Israel Policy Forum last year, one of the first things Jacoby did was to sponsor a poll which purported to show that 87 percent of American Jews supported the Israel-PLO agreement. A sample of Jacoby's questions: "As you may be aware, Israel agreed to recognize the PLO as the official representative of the Palestinian people after the PLO renounced terrorism, removed the clauses from its charter which called for the destruction of Israel, and formally recognized Israel's right to exist. Do you approve or disapprove of the Israeli government's decision to recognize the PLO as the official representative of the Palestinian people?" Not surprisingly, 82 percent answered "yes," based in part on the erroneous belief that the Covenant has been changed. (The Anti-Defamation League, which was reported to have been the co-sponsor, dissociated itself from the poll.)

In the latest poll, taken in mid-May, Jacoby tried a different ap-

proach. His sample was heavily weighted to people with few links to the Jewish community and therefore more likely to give dovish answers — 65 percent said they were not members of any Jewish organization and 63 percent did not consider themselves to be Zionists. These people were then asked vague questions about whether or not they support "the peace process" — an elastic term which can mean many things. Moreover, not many people are inclined to say they are against a "peace process" since it makes it sound as if they are against peace. Jacoby then trumpeted his findings as "proof" that most US Jews favor Rabin's policies.

In years gone by, others on the Jewish left have used similarly slippery polling tactics. But last year's AJC Committee poll got more "honest" results when its questions were worded in a specific, realistic way. Thus 90 percent of the respondents favored the "peace plan" but when asked if they supported extending PLO self-rule to "other areas in the West Bank at a later stage" — which is at the heart of the Rabin plan — only 43 percent were in favor.

When the pollsters ask questions that are specific, realistic and non-biased, American Jewish opinion is clearly on the right of the political spectrum. It is only when the likes of Jonathan Jacoby and the Israel Policy Forum utilize vague or misleading questions that they are able to falsely claim that American Jewry is dovish.

HERBERT ZWELON  
Chairman,  
Americans For a Safe Israel  
New York.

### "ON CAMERA"

Sir, — Since making aliyah from England last year, I have been regular reader of David Brauner's *On Camera*.

Brauner recently visited my home to examine my camera collection. The resultant interview appeared in *On Camera* on May 15 and I have been amazed at the interest shown with many calls, via Mr. Brauner, from interested readers who have "an old camera" that they want to know more about, from people who wish to see the collection or offer to sell me pieces of equipment that have been in cupboards for many years.

All this indicates tremendous appreciation by your readers of the subject and shows how much David Brauner's column is enjoyed.

KENNETH BERG  
Caesarea.

### ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Sir, — I was amazed at Aryeh Bodenheimer's unwarranted attack on *The Jerusalem Post* regarding its coverage of death and injuries on our roads (Letters, May 17). For many months now, *The Jerusalem Post* has been a leader in creating public awareness to the issue of road safety. Apart from the campaign for slogans for car stickers only recently completed, numerous articles and opinion pieces have been published on a regular basis. As one who is constantly seeking publicity material in both the Hebrew and English press, I can only praise the *Post* for its excellent and varied coverage.

ZELDA HARRIS  
Netanya.

## United front

IRVING SCHIFFMAN

ISRAEL is trying to trim its domestic industries, to make them leaner and meaner so they can compete more effectively in a market-oriented global economy.

This will place added pressure on the country's capacity to deal with its environmental problems.

Israel is still trying to come to grips with years of environmental neglect, which has led to a deterioration in air quality, the accumulation of toxic waste, the degradation of streams and aquifers and damage to landscapes and natural ecosystems.

Significantly, the country's economic restructuring is taking place at the same time as another kind of restructuring — people's relationship to the environment.

Environmental awareness among Israelis is growing, evidenced in such actions as opposition to the Voice of America transmitters in the Arava and to the hydroelectric plant on the Jordan River. The number of environmental interest groups has also increased.

Based on the experience of other democracies, an upsurge in environmental awareness and organization can be expected to result in increased advocacy for environ-

Today's lesson, gentlemen, is corporate care for our environment

mental regulations, closer public scrutiny of planning and building, and more frequent use of the courts to establish and enforce environmental rights. There will also be demands for a more open, participatory and accountable decision-making process.

The looming struggle between economic and environmental forces threatens to impose significant costs upon the business sector — and the country — in terms of delay, additional regulations, expensive lawsuits, damage liability, penalty fees and negative publicity. And the result may be only marginal improvements to the environment.

To prevent or at least mitigate the coming conflict, it is imperative that the corporate sector accept that it has a social responsibility to the public. It must respond to the new environmental consciousness within the country by adopting internal practices and procedures which lessen the adverse impacts its operations have on the environment.

CORPORATE environmentalism means going beyond mere compliance with regulations and integrating environmental considerations into all business decisions. It means minimizing environmental impacts throughout the entire production cycle — from the extraction of resources through production, use and final disposal.

It means carrying out research and development on environmentally safe activities, while abandoning environmentally unsafe endeavors. And it means educating employees to recognize environmental problems and deal with them in an integrated and comprehensive fashion.

The need for a policy of environmental responsiveness is not limited to the private sector.

Government-owned corporations compete with private firms in their attempt to maximize growth and profits, and there is little evidence of their subscribing to more socially oriented objectives, such as protecting public health.

Government-owned power plants, chemical companies and refineries, for example, have a long history of resisting efforts to reduce the pollution they create. What kind of message is the government sending about the values people should pursue in their private lives, when its own industries seek to avoid compliance with environmental laws?

Environmental education is no less important for corporate leaders than it is for ordinary citizens.

In the US, Western Europe and Japan, industry has shown how voluntary changes in production processes, location and design decisions can work to improve the environment, while generating major cost savings to the firm and improving the company's reputation.

It's time for the private and governmental business sectors in Israel to expand their decision-making criteria and recognize that their growth and prosperity is dependent upon a healthy society, one in which maintaining environmental quality is a shared responsibility.

The writer is a professor of political science at California State University and a visiting professor at the School for Overseas Students, Hebrew University.

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King's Singe



# Learning the language of friendship

Youngsters from abroad are teaching English to Arab Israelis and learning much in return, Judith Sudilovsky writes



Polly Osborn, 18, (left) teaching at the Haifa Arab Teacher Training College. Students say GAP volunteer teachers help with pronunciation and are friends from another culture. (Paul Melting)

SARAH Clark, 18, is technically supposed to be teaching English to students at the Hadji High School for Girls in Umm el-Fahm, but she's more than a teacher for the students.

"I feel as if I'm on the same level as my students. We are more like friends," said Clark, who came from Norwich, England, for six months as a GAP teaching volunteer with 17 others.

Mohammed Qianwan, 15, a ninth-grade student at Razi Junior High School in Umm el-Fahm, where some of the teenage volunteers teach, says they definitely have had an influence. He is enthusiastic about the English language and during a telephone interview he spews forth a constant and fluent stream of synonyms.

Is he reading from a dictionary? Yes, he says, he likes the dictionary.

"I think the volunteers have the capacity, the ability to help us learn, help us improve our expression," said Qianwan. "They give us the freedom to express our emotions, our traditions. I'm improving my speech. The volunteer gives me help to develop. She gives us much encouragement and is very enthusiastic."

His English has improved, he said, but it had been good to begin with.

This is the second year that teenage GAP volunteers have worked as teaching assistants in English classes in Israeli Arab schools. In June, they will be finishing their volunteer assignments.

GAP, now in its 24th year, is a volunteer program for high-school graduates who want to take a year off before they start university. They go overseas and teach English, work in hospitals or do agricultural work. Some 750 volunteers are placed in 30 countries. The name GAP stands for the gap year: the volunteers take before entering university.

The volunteers, who arrived in Israel in January, are teaching at the Haifa Arab Teacher Training College, and in schools in Umm el-Fahm, Saknin and Fassuta in Galilee, and in the Beduin villages of Aroer and Segev Shalom.

The local council is asked to provide housing, board and a bit of pocket money to the volunteers. Because in many places it is easier to find housing for young women, most of the volunteers are female.

"I like this idea of bringing students from abroad," said Ghada Abu Saleh, 20, in fluent English. A third-year student at the Haifa Arab Teacher Training College, she is from the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Golan. "We benefit from their pronunciation. We learn many things about their culture.... And they are also our friends and it is good to have friends from other backgrounds."

Saeed Ebgaria, the counselor for four volunteers in Umm el-Fahm, said he has seen improvement in pupils' English conversation skills, but noted volunteers often run into trouble when they

need to explain grammar.

"Maybe it would be better if the volunteers were two or three years older," Ebgaria said, "but we still very much want them to be here."

No studies have been done on the program's impact, but Education Ministry inspector Wajeh Awad sees only good coming from the program. Arab students living in villages don't have the same exposure to English speakers as students in cities, he said, and having the volunteers living in the villages gives students and local teachers the chance to practice conversational English.

"The Arab students' only contact with the language outside school is through the television and that... is only passive exposure," he said. "Now with the volunteers, they have the opportunity to use their English.... This will help them do better on the oral part of their matriculation exams."

Most of this year's GAP volunteers knew little or nothing about Israel before arriving.

Ever since Polly Osborn, 18, read Leon Uris's *Exodus* six years ago, she has wanted to visit. The Oxford resident has found that it is not quite like the kibbutz life depicted in the book.

"As a whole, I find Israel very exciting and stimulating, and the politics are very challenging. But I don't find myself pro anything," said Osborn, who is teaching at the Haifa Arab Teacher Training College. "I'll have to come again to see the Jewish side."

"The only news I hear about is from friends in town, since we don't have a television," added Londoner Andy Ross, 18, who teaches at the Wadi Alnaseer Junior High School in Umm el-Fahm. "So we get a rather biased, one-sided view. I don't like to talk about my opinions, but it seems that, in general, the Moslems get misrepresented in the West through the media. They make all Moslems seem like fanatics. I'm trying to learn more about Islam."

The majority of the volunteers have had little opportunity to get to know Jewish Israelis, but would like to meet some.

The teaching program is coordinated by the British Council,

while the British Olim Society is responsible for the volunteer programs at kibbutzim and hospitals. GAP is funded by donations; volunteers must provide some of their own funds.

"At first we were worried that the teaching volunteers wouldn't be able to do what was expected of them," said Peter Sandiford, the British Council's Israel director. "But the proof is in the pudding. All the places which had them last year asked for more volunteers this year, and we also added a few new locations."

Next year, GAP will also be sending volunteers to development towns, mainly in the South, said Malcolm Johnson, British Council educational officer. But because of the time needed to recruit and screen volunteers, they probably won't be able to provide a large number of volunteers until the following school year, he said.

Before they were sent to their assignments, the volunteers were given one week of training in teaching English as a second language and then got a two-day introduction to Israel, along with a crash course in teaching English as a second language at Beit Berl in Kfar Sava.

The teaching methods here are similar to those in England and include group work and activities instead of just frontal teaching, said Sarah Clark.

Clark and Ross share a house with two other GAP volunteers—one woman and one man—although there are some people in Umm el-Fahm who don't approve of those living arrangements.

The two women have to be more careful about how they present themselves to the community. At first, they would meet with local youths, which was not acceptable to the villagers. Now, after Ebgaria persuaded the local council not to eject them, the young women are not calling on young men. "Here in Umm el-Fahm they have to understand there are limits," Ebgaria said.

One of last year's volunteers warned in a letter to Helen Harris not to teach in Segev Shalom if she was very feminist, but the 19-year-old from Worcestershire said she doesn't feel "too constricted."

She and fellow volunteer Irene Lambeth, 19, of Hampshire, live with a Beduin family. While the Beduin women are not free to go out in the evening or to sit with men, the community doesn't expect them, as Western women, to behave the same way, said Harris.

They have, however, felt frustrated in their role as teachers because of the low level of English knowledge in the schools, said Harris. She would have liked to receive more information about the Beduin before coming so she would have known what to expect, she said.

"They are given a tremendous amount of information on what to wear and how to behave—the British Council puts out a 20-page pamphlet—but still they are surprised when they come here," replied Sandiford. "After all, they are 18 years old and some have never been outside Britain. Going to live in a Beduin village is quite a culture shock."



Today at the festival

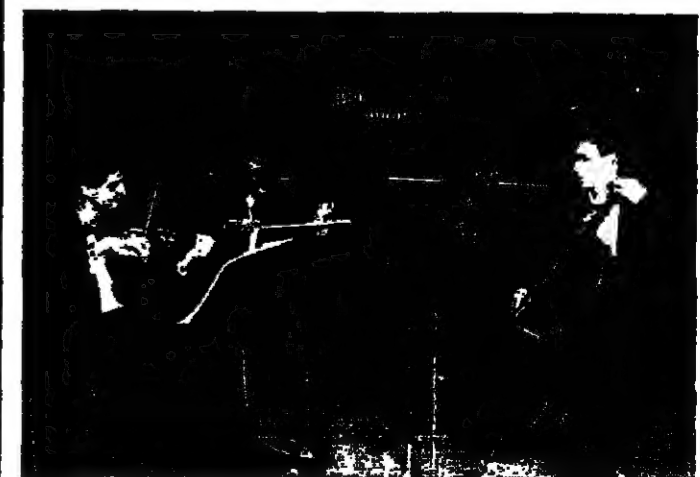
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Shalva volunteer Joyce Shashoua gets Sara Batya Myer ready for her birthday party. (S. Ushely)

## Where 'special' children are treated like anyone else

Look at what a child can do, not at what the child can't do, is the motto of a voluntary organization in Jerusalem; Joel Reibibo writes

SARA Batya Myer's birthday party this week wasn't that different from any other 12-year-old's. There was live music and entertainment, friends and family and treats.

And, of course, the birthday girl was decked out in her finest, from the bows in her soft brown hair to her white, lace-trimmed ankle socks.

But Sara has cerebral palsy and spastic quadriplegia, which means she can't move or talk. She can't even pick up her head.

"Why shouldn't she have a party like other children?" asks her mother, Elaine. "It's a chance for her to be with people who care about her."

The people at Shalva, the Jerusalem-based Association to Relieve the Handicapped Child and Family, agree. There, the emphasis is on what a child can do and on providing the opportunity for as normal a life as possible. And that includes birthday parties.

At this one, the feeling of "normality" and sheer delight was tangible, despite the condition of the participants, which ranged from Down's Syndrome and autism to severe retardation.

Shalva was started four years ago by Malky and Kalman Samuels, who yesterday received the President's Award for Volunteerism. Their experience with their son Yosef, now 17, who lost his sight and hearing after receiving a DPT vaccination at 11 months, sensitized them to the needs of a handicapped child's family.

"These children demand constant attention and stimulation, which makes it impossible for the mother to attend to the other children's needs and to the home,"

explains Kalman, manager of information systems at the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation. "In some cases, the families are forced to institutionalize these children. We're trying to help keep them at home."

SHALVA, which currently caters to 80 youngsters, is open six days a week, Shabbat through Thursday. The children arrive directly from their special schools and stay until 6 p.m. or even later, according to the family's needs. Then the Shalva van runs them home. Having had their supper, they are ready for a bath, story and bed.

"When our son Yonatan comes home, he's very calm because he's had hours of attention," says Freddy Lemberger. Yonatan has brain damage caused by meningitis contracted as a baby. "He's happy when he's at Shalva, and as a result, he's at maximum capacity when he comes home."

Shalva is a happy place. The facility, a cottage in the capital's Har Not quarter, is located in the heart of a haredi neighborhood. Something is always happening: a visit to the circus, take-out pizza lunch, birthday parties like Sara Batya's.

The people who create the atmosphere at Shalva are a team of 10 trained staff and 100 volunteers, led by Malky and Kalman Samuels. They provide physical and occupational therapy, plus constant one-on-one stimulation by reading the children stories, playing, dancing and singing with them. Recently, Shalva purchased two touch-sensitive computers designed with special-education needs in mind.

With children who have CP, Down's Syndrome or mental retardation, progress is gradual. In the most difficult cases, staff and volunteers can spend months trying to elicit a blink or a smile. Though the casual observer may not detect a response, the Shalva staff sees the people behind the disabilities.

"Sara Batya is a bright child," says Nehama Samuels, the 18-year-old daughter of Kalman and Malky, who also volunteers at Shalva. "She has a very good memory. Also, I used to read to her a lot, and I could feel it when she liked certain books, like *Where do the butterflies go when it rains?*"

"Sometimes I see her trying to talk to me," the young volunteer adds. "The muscles of her mouth start working, and it's heartbreaking to see her try and form the words. I know she has so much to say. She communicates by blinking, and with her very special smile."

Shalva's original afternoon program has expanded. It now includes an evening program for teenagers and people in their early 20s, a summer day camp and two-week sleep-away camp. There is also an overnight program with 10 beds for children whose parents need a 36-hour break.

Funds run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, and are raised privately. "I don't want to ask anything from the parents," says Kalman Samuels. "They have enough demands placed on them already."

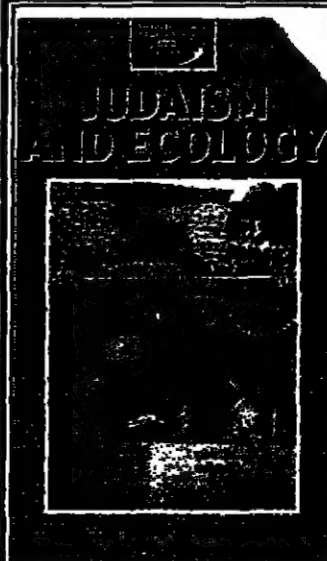
Adds his wife: "These families deserve to be helped. Because they're the ones who don't institutionalize their child."



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## Nonaligned ministers look to the West

PATRICK WORSNIP  
CAIRO

**N**ONALIGNED foreign ministers are trying to shift from confrontation to partnership with the West and to find ways to halt conflicts in Bosnia, Yemen and Rwanda.

The four-day meeting which opened in Egypt yesterday is the first major gathering of the 108-member movement since a 1992 summit in Jakarta.

Since then the Cold War, which first gave rise to the movement in the 1960s, has faded further, but a rash of bitter local conflicts has afflicted developing countries just as they are trying to focus on economic growth.

"The main sufferers from the uncertain transition in international relations remained the developing nations," says the draft of a declaration due to be adopted by the ministers.

With the governments of Islamic countries, who account for almost half of the movement's members, under pressure at home to take action to help Bosnia's Moslems, the draft calls for much tougher UN measures to stop the fighting there.

The draft urges the Security Council to "enforce" a cease-fire throughout Bosnia, calls for the mandate of the UN force there to be beefed up and denounces the arms embargo on Bosnia.

The Bosnian question dominated the Jakarta summit, but diplomats said that since Yugoslavia—a founder member of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM)—had not been invited to the Cairo meeting, it could prove less controversial this time.

The declaration calls for immediate cease-fires in the two most violent wars in the nonaligned area, in Yemen and Rwanda.

The section on Yemen gives no support to the breakaway just over a week ago of the southern part of the state, and officials said the south—a separate country until Yemeni unity in 1990—would not be represented at the meeting.

The NAM, facing charges that it has lost its point now that there are no longer East and West camps, has tried to recast itself as a Third World pressure group fighting for a better political and economic deal from the big powers.

References to imperialism and colonialism, once the stock-in-trade of nonaligned statements, have been purged from the draft before ministers in Cairo.

Instead it talks about cooperation, partnership and "shared responsibility" with the wealthy nations, despite protests about unequal treatment at the UN and in trade and finance.

Calls for expansion of the Security Council to strengthen non-aligned representation are expected to be a major topic.

Diplomats said that despite its reputation as a talking shop, the NAM had solid achievements to its credit that were reflected in the recent move to majority rule in South Africa and the Israel-Palestinian accord on Gaza and Jericho.

The writer is chief diplomatic correspondent of Reuters.



A Dinka woman sits with her malnourished children in Kongor, southern Sudan.

## No end in sight for Sudan's 12-year-old civil war

WILLIAM C. MANN  
CAIRO

**A**FRICA'S deadliest civil war is stumbling into its 12th year, with no end in sight.

Most of the more than 1.5 million who have perished in Sudan have died of starvation in a nation that once had the potential of being the continent's breadbasket.

Relief groups warn that at least another 500,000—probably more—are in imminent danger of dying in southern Sudan, the battlefield between government troops and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Doctors Without Borders says famine will strike unless food aid reaches southern Sudan in the next two or three weeks, when the rainy season starts in earnest.

The UN says 2 million of Sudan's 26 million people need food or farming tools. Amnesty International says 3 million are malnourished in one of northeast Africa's most fertile regions.

Relief groups are calling for \$5 million in international aid to deliver food aid stuck in warehouses in Kenya because of a lack of cargo planes and impassable roads into the Horn of Africa nation.

Already, the number of dead and dying eclipse any other African crisis of recent decades, outstripping the 200,000 massacred in Rwanda since April, or the million who died in Biafra in the 1960s.

Both sides have used food as a weapon in Sudan's sordid war. Amnesty International and other human rights groups accuse both sides of massacres, mass expulsions and setting whole villages afire.

The war started in May 1983, when US-trained Col. John Garang led a mutiny at the army garrison at Bor, his southern Sudan hometown, and rekindled fighting between north and the south.

A victory by the government on the battlefield—where it has made major gains in recent months—would put a regime accused by the West of exporting Islamic fanaticism on the doorstep of largely non-Moslem central Africa.

"Is there anyone willing to see the SPLA defeated?" asked Peter Woodward, a Sudan expert at England's Reading University.

In recent months, Sudan has accused the US, other Western countries and Israel of arming the rebels, who lost their last supplier in 1991 with the fall of the Marxist regime in neighboring Ethiopia.

Everybody denies it, but Sudan-watchers say there's something to the concept of Western support.

In March, an Israeli cargo plane loaded with 23 tons of arms was reported to have landed at Uganda's Entebbe airport. Sudan said the weapons made their way into the Sudanese bush for the rebels.

Reading University's Woodward said he would add some Arab regimes to Sudanese leader Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan al-Bashir's list of alleged rebel supporters.

"I don't think they particularly want to see Sudan split," he said. "They would settle for confederation. What they really don't want to see is victory for the National Islamic Front," the ideological guide of Bashir's government.

In April, the rebels declared a breakaway state, "New Sudan." It was the first time since the war started that Garang had spelled out his goal was the division of Sudan, the largest country in Africa.

It's still unclear how serious he is. The Sudanese government says it's just a negotiating ploy. (AP)

But with a militantly fundamentalist Moslem government in Khartoum growing increasingly anti-Western over the last five

years, there's little prospect of real peace.

Seven rounds of peace talks between the government and the Christian and animist rebels have failed, and international attention is diverted to Bosnia, Rwanda and elsewhere.

The last negotiations, in mid-May in Nairobi, Kenya, ended with nothing more than a non-binding declaration of principles.

The stakes are high. A negotiated peace would likely include significant autonomy for the south under Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army or a splinter group.

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## Refuge but no food in southern Sudan

MOHAMED OSMAN  
JUBA

**S**O many people have fled to Juba to escape Sudan's civil war that they're growing food in the cemeteries where war victims are buried.

In peacetime, Juba was a pleasant, prosperous town, population 100,000. Five times that many live here now, mostly refugees scrambling for food to stay alive.

Henry Muni, a former laboratory technician, trekked 70 km. to the southern town in 1989 with his wife, four children and 3,000 others from Terkeka, which had fallen to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Muni's family found the security they sought in Juba, 1,180 km. south of Khartoum. But, like half the six million people in southern Sudan, they're suffering from an acute food shortage.

Muni wants peace so he can take his family home and grow their own food.

"I don't want to see my children grow up in this atmosphere of civil war," Muni said. "Poor education. Poor services. Poor nutrition."

Many of the refugees fleeing more than 11 years of fighting between the rebels and government troops live in mud-walled houses, covered by green canvas left behind by relief agencies long ago. The houses are everywhere, nestled among government buildings.

bureaucrats' houses, mosques and churches built in happier times. Muni was given land and seed through a government program to help the displaced grow their food, but he says he needs at least 1.6 hectares.

Paulino Lako Kidiya, Juba's state agriculture minister, says there isn't enough land to go around. Already he's had to allocate cemetery plots for farming.

Although the government claims the 100 km. around Juba are secure, only expensive air transport can supply its markets, because rebels still control much of the countryside.

The market has mangoes, pawpaws, pineapples and bananas—but for a price.

A sack of sorghum, the national staple, can cost 25,000 Sudanese pounds (\$71 at the official rate), almost double a month's salary for a member of Sudan's parliament.

In central Sudan, north of the war zone, that same sack sells for 5,000 pounds (\$14) or less.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army began the war in May 1983 to press for a better political and economic deal for the south. The war has become Africa's deadliest, claiming over 1.5 million victims, with no end in sight.

"Peace for me is like blood to the heart," Muni said. "Without peace, we are done with." (AP)

One official said Saudi Arabia was already sending money to Beidh and his followers in the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd issued a joint statement with Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz saying that Saudi Arabia, more than any other country, had an interest in ending the war.

"When we look at the situation in Yemen, we are profoundly saddened at the deteriorating conditions. We have called on the parties in the conflict to put the interests of the Yemeni people in front of their own interests," they said in their annual address to Moslem pilgrims at this year's haj.

Iryani, who has visited Saudi Arabia at least twice since the fighting in Yemen broke out on May 4, said no Arab government was prepared to take what could be the most damaging step—recognizing the southern state which Beidh proclaimed last week.

"I personally do not expect any foreign intervention," he added, apparently referring to foreign troops joining battle.

Diplomats also dismiss the possibility that any country would see the need to send troops, which would be much too visible and difficult to justify to their own people and the world community.

Southern leader Abdel-Rahman al-Jifri said this week he expected several Arab countries to recognize the southern state within a matter of days.

But officials in Sanaa are skeptical, arguing that meekly acknowledging the fragmentation of Yemen contradicted the Arab states' declared commitment to unity among all Arab countries.

"Accepting defeat on Yemeni unity would be a staggering psychological blow," said Education Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi. (Reuters)

But the country the northern government suspects most is neighboring Saudi Arabia, which has a long tradition of financing Yemeni tribes that cause trouble for the rulers in Sanaa.

Saleh and his ministers have not yet accused the Saudis of taking sides in the conflict, but government officials say they have every expectation that the Saudis will eventually do so.

"The Saudis want a weak neighbor just like any other government anywhere in the world," one senior official said. "But whatever Saudi Arabia can achieve will be through Yemenis. They can use Yemenis to create instability."

"If Yemenis are left to their own resources, this war will end quickly and we will find our own solution. Otherwise it could go on for a long time," a colleague said.

Archaeologists have long assumed that a harbor had been essential for pyramid builders to transport massive building blocks and finer stones to Giza Plateau.

Granite arrived on Nile River barges after 700-km. journeys northward from Aswan's royal quarries.

It was believed that one large harbor serviced the plateau, crowned by the three Giza pyramids and at least eight smaller pyramids.

In 1978 geologists located a possible harbor at the foot of the plateau in front of the Sphinx.

The latest discovery, made in February, indicates the three main pyramids each had a separate harbor, a big surprise for Hawass and other Egyptologists.

The large pyramids honored pharaohs Cheops, his son

Chephren and grandson Mycerinus.

Egyptologists believe the pyramids were built simultaneously over a 70-year period, beginning about 2550 BCE.

Separate harbors meant work could be channeled to each pyramid, making construction far more efficient and coordinated than previously believed.

Hundreds of thousands of stones, some weighing as much as 400 tons, went into building the pyramids, the Sphinx, tombs, temples and other structures at the plateau.

The new find is a section of huge blocks that form a wall 70 m. long and three meters wide, the style "absolutely from Cheops's time," Hawass said.

Hawass believes the wall was part of a huge retaining wall that channeled Nile water into a harbor below Cheops's pyramid.

From the water's edge, workers hauled the massive blocks up the plateau.

The find was made when laborers dug foundations for planned apartment buildings in the working-class neighborhood of Nazlett el-Sese, a five-minute drive from the Sphinx. Construction was stopped.

## Iraqi oil is thicker than resolutions

**BAGHDAD (Reuters)**—Iraq hopes Western firms vying for lucrative deals will eventually force their countries to have a crippling oil embargo eased or lifted, diplomats say.

"There are Germans, Americans, Britons, French, Italians and Japanese here, all with an eye on Iraqi crude and markets," said a Western diplomat.

Businessmen visiting Baghdad avoid the foreign press, but their presence is no secret. They travel in black limousines and their destination is generally the oil ministry.

Iraqi crude oil exports have been banned under an embargo imposed by the UN Security Council shortly after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The Security Council voted this month not to consider easing sanctions until Iraq meets all requirements to scrap its weapons of mass destruction, but it was split on interpretation of the 1991 Gulf War cease-fire resolution. The US was at odds with some other members in demanding that Iraq comply with a host of other conditions.

The ruling Ba'ath party newspaper *Al-Thawra* said afterwards Iraq had almost given up hope that the council would ever consider its case favorably.

"Iraq is knocking on all doors... luring Western firms for business. The firms have influence," the diplomat said.

Another diplomat said that even now Western firms, particularly in France and Germany, are putting heavy pressure on their governments to let Iraqi crude flow again.

"Iraq is banking on this. It is one way, and a clever one, to beat the sanctions," he said.

Iraq has deals, to be implemented once the embargo is lifted, with giant French oil companies Elf and Total to develop the giant southern fields of Majnoon and Nahr Omar.

An Iraqi oil delegation will visit Italy and Ukraine later this month for talks on oil cooperation, according to the *Middle East Economic Survey*.

"The temptation to lift the sanctions is there. Business speaks louder than resolutions," the diplomat said.

Iraq, which produced 3.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil before the embargo, announced the inauguration of a field in the northern province of Saladdin last month and said initial production estimates were 70,000 bpd.

"I know it is much higher than that, and a Western company is approaching for a concession," one diplomat said. "Believe me, the first companies to operate here will be American."

Oil sources in Baghdad say OPEC's smaller members need Iraq's return to offset Saudi Arabia's influence within the producer group.

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## Ancient port found near pyramids

**NAZLETT EL-SESE (AP)**—Construction workers digging near the Sphinx have found an ancient harbor where men and stones were ferried in to build the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

"It changes history, everything we've ever believed. It's a wonderful discovery," says Zahi Hawass, antiquities director of the pyramids area and the Sphinx.

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## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1994

## Bezek posts rise in net profits

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK posted a 9.2 percent increase in net profits during the first quarter to NIS 95 million from NIS 87m. during the same quarter last year.

During the fourth quarter in 1993, the company lost NIS 13m. Bezek's board yesterday approved the financial reports for the first quarter. The profit per share was 11 agorot, compared with a loss of two agorot during the previous quarter.

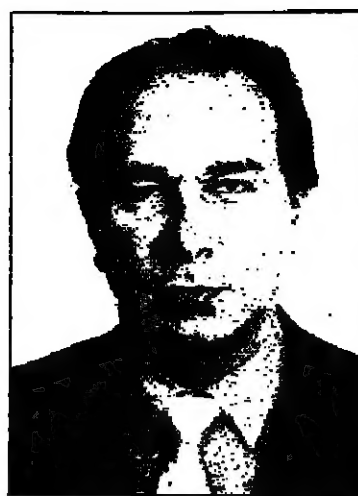
Bezek's revenues rose to NIS 1.2 billion from NIS 1.18b.

Operating expenses fell to NIS 645m. from NIS 690m.

Company director-general Yitzhak Kaul said Bezek is preparing for changes due to the growing competition in telecommunications.

There are now two million phone lines in the country, and digital exchanges encompass 75 percent of the population.

Breakdowns have been reduced by 11% and public complaints by 5% during this quarter, according to the company.



Director-general Yitzhak Kaul

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni chose Ofer Weiss, an economist from her ministry, to serve on Bezek's board of directors.

## VAT, Customs receipts up 10%

JOSE ROSENFELD

VAT and Customs receipts jumped 10 percent in real terms during the first third of the year to NIS 10.25 billion, reflecting a strong economy, said VAT and Customs director Aryeh Zeif yesterday.

Zeif noted that despite the inflation last year of the 2% import levy and purchase tax, as well as tariff reductions, the government collected NIS 1.25b. more than in the same period last year.

In May, the growth rate moderated somewhat to 8% from the 10% to 12% a month during the first third of the year.

Zeif said the change did not indicate a slowdown in the economy. The business sector expressed its confidence in the economy by

increasing its investment in equipment and machinery by 18%, said Zeif. Another reflection of rising investment was the significant growth in VAT refunds, he added.

Durable imports also grew an impressive 14%.

VAT receipts shot up 11%, bringing in NIS 250m. more than original estimates. Zeif emphasized that the estimates already assume NIS 300m. in additional revenues.

The Treasury said VAT and Customs receipts will total NIS 31.8b. this year. If revenues continue at the present rate, Zeif predicts they will exceed the original estimates by more than

and 20%, which he thinks will translate into a 17% rate in most countries.

The Treasury will continue with the long-term policy to lower purchase taxes. Zeif, however, made very clear that no cuts were imminent.

Last time there was talk about such cuts on car radios, walkmans, computers and the like, the government was forced to make them when importers stopped bringing in the merchandise, as customers held off purchases in the expectation of the promised lower taxes.

Zeif confirmed that February's lowering of the purchase tax on car radios from 85% to 45% has helped to moderate their high theft rate.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Rafael workers step up sanctions:** Rafael managing director Yitzhak Gat has sent letters to 350 employees, asking them to resign. If they do not, he told the worker's committee and a Histadrut representative at a meeting yesterday, they will be fired and receive worse benefits than if they left voluntarily.

In response, the workers stepped up their sanctions. All workers have been instructed to refuse to do any work outside the plant. The union said if management takes any further action, the sanctions would be further strengthened. *Yigal Kotzer*

**Israel Electric Corp. appoints new internal audit committee head:** The Israel Electric Corporation yesterday appointed board member Yehuda Hame'iri as chairman of the company's board of directors internal audit committee. Hame'iri will take over from Naphtali Ben-Yehuda, who no longer serves on the company's board of directors.

In other news, two of the Electric Corp.'s board members yesterday criticized the workers committee's objections to the board's decision to give chairman Edi Amori and managing director Moshe Katz bonuses. Freddy Malik and Saphir Silensky said Amori and Katz earn about 10 percent less than some of the top employees which work under them.

**45% of Hapoalim's series 2 warrants exercised:** Approximately 45% of Bank Hapoalim's series 2 warrants were exercised yesterday, the last day investors had to exercise warrants into shares. The warrants were issued in the framework of Bank Hapoalim's offering in May 1993 during which the government issued 88.8 million series 2 warrants at a price of NIS 0.2 per warrant. The warrants exercise price was NIS 3.7.

The government, which now holds 76% of Bank Hapoalim's shares, raised NIS 175m. from the exercise of the warrants. Investors who exercised their warrants yesterday lost about 4% of their initial investment since the price of the share was lower than the warrants exercise price.

**Bill approved making it easier for customers to switch banks:** The Knesset finance committee yesterday approved a bill by committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) aimed at making it easier for customers to switch banks, by requiring banks to cancel liens on a client's property for debts that have already been repaid within a fixed amount of time. The bill, which will now be sent to the plenum for its second and third reading, also stipulates that banks have the same obligations toward loan guarantors as they do toward their customers.

**Plans approved to build government office complexes:** Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday approved plans to build government office complexes and courts throughout the country. The \$500 million project will spread over 330,000 square meters during a period of five to 10 years.

## IDB Holding reports 80% decline in net earnings

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

IDB HOLDING yesterday reported a 80 percent fall in net profits for the first quarter to NIS 14.2 million from NIS 71.4m. during the corresponding period last year.

The decline was mainly due to a NIS 31m. fall in prices of securities traded on the stock exchange held by group companies.

IDB Holding, which invests in companies engaged in industry, communications and high technology, said in the directors report that second quarter profits fell by

an additional NIS 10m. in the period ending May 24 as a result of the continued decline in the market value of the group's tradeable securities.

The drop in first quarter earnings was also due to a decline in IDB Holding's capital gains to NIS 19m. from NIS 52m.

The company's profits for the first quarter include a dividend of NIS 5.3m. received from Israel Discount Bank. IDB Holding has a 13.7% interest in Discount.

Revenue from sales and services

increased to NIS 222.35m. from NIS 183.13m.

IDB Development, which centralizes investment activities of the IDB group, reported a 62% drop in net profits to NIS 26.2m. from NIS 69.5m. for the corresponding period last year.

The fall was blamed mainly on the NIS 34m. drop in prices of securities traded on the stock exchange held by group companies. The company said it suffered an

additional NIS 10m. loss due to the group's investments in securities in the period starting April 1 and ending May 24.

IDB Development's lower profits were also due to capital gains, which fell to NIS 27m. in the first quarter from NIS 37m.

The company said in the directors report that the closure of the territories and competition from imports hindered some of the companies' business on the local market.

Total assets of IDB Develop-

ment at the end of last year were NIS 4.9 billion, while shareholders' equity was NIS 2.2b.

During the second quarter this year, CellCom Israel - a company founded by the US-based BellSouth Corp., the Safra brothers from Brazil and the IDB group - won a tender for a license to operate a second mobile radio-telephone service in Israel.

CellCom plans to invest \$300m. over the next three years to set up the infrastructure for the new network.

## Israel Chemicals suffers 54% fall in first quarter net earnings

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL Chemicals reported a 54 percent drop in first quarter net profits to NIS 19.8 million from NIS 43.2m. in the same period last year.

Revenues increased to NIS 828m. from NIS 763m. Profit margins fell to 20% from 23%.

The company cited a downturn in the world fertilizer market and the seasonal nature of chemical products used in agriculture, usually higher toward the second half of the year.

Malibu Israel, a contractor-investor, has reported a NIS 7.49m. net loss, compared with a NIS 7.6m. net profit during the same period last year. Profit margins fell to 26% from 44%. Revenues jumped to NIS 77m. from NIS 48.7m.

The Harel Hamishmar Insurance Group reported a 5% fall in

net profit for the first quarter to NIS 6.5m. from NIS 6.9m. in the same period last year.

The drop in profitability was mainly due to a fall in earnings from investments as a result of the decrease in prices of securities on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

In the life insurance sector, Harel Hamishmar showed a profit of NIS 7m. Total premiums from life insurance rose to NIS 111m. from NIS 101m.

The company reported a growth in net profits of its non-life insurance sector to NIS 10.6m. from NIS 9.4m.

In the directors report, the company said profits from the industrial insurance category increased, while strong competition pushed car insurance earnings down.

Mamam, an air cargo concern, announced a 8% rise in net profits for the first quarter to NIS 4m. from NIS 3.75m.

Profit margins rose to 53% from 45%.

Per share earnings rose to NIS 0.117 from NIS 0.107.

The company said it registered NIS 1.5m. in deferred taxes on losses on its investment portfolio.

If taken into account, quarterly net profits would be NIS 2.6m.

Macpell, a textile manufacturer, announced a net loss of NIS 3.3m. for the first quarter, compared with a net profit of NIS 2.6m. for the same period last year.

Sales declined slightly to NIS 36.4m. from NIS 36.6m. Gross margins dropped to 7% from 14%.

The company said it experienced a NIS 1.2m. loss on its securities portfolio during the last quarter.

Until the US and European recessions, Macpell had manufactured principally for the limited group.

The company is now taking steps to expand its client list.

Degen Systems announced NIS 3.8m. in first quarter net profits, compared with a net loss of 3.6m.

Profit margins were rose to 68% from 46.7%.

Per share earnings were NIS 0.50, compared with a per share loss of NIS 0.57.

## Restraining order issued against Nakash

EVELYN GORDON

DEPUTY Supreme Court President Aharon Barak has issued a temporary restraining order against former North American Bank director Joseph Nakash, preventing him and his company - Nakash Brothers Realty - from selling shares in the Yigal Ltd. holiday village firm.

The order, which was requested by the official receiver in his role as North American Bank's liquidator, also prevents Ofer Brothers Investments from exercising its right of first refusal on the shares.

Nakash was convicted in December by the Jerusalem District Court of helping to cause North American Bank's collapse by using his position as a director to give credit to firms in which the Nakash brothers held stock.

He was therefore ordered to pay NIS 482 million to the receiver, but the money was never paid.

The receiver therefore asked the Tel Aviv District Court for a liquidation order against Nakash, which the court declined to issue, and an appeal of this decision is now pending before the Supreme Court.

In his request, the receiver noted that a restraining order had already been granted against the sale of Nakash's shares in Coral Beach Eilat Ltd. But it does not cover Nakash's 50% stake in Yigal Ltd., which, at the time, the receiver didn't know about.

The order will be in force until the court rules on the liquidation appeal.

## Saguy: Mizrahi conditions loans on insuring car with bank

EVELYN GORDON

BANK Mizrahi appears to be conditioning car loans on the client's purchase of car insurance from the bank, chairman of the Knesset finance committee's subcommittee on insurance Gideon Saguy (Labor) said yesterday.

The subcommittee was discussing the bank's entry into the car insurance field, announced by ads which appeared about two weeks ago. Although banks already sell certain types of insurance, such as life and apartment insurance, this is the first time any bank has entered the car insurance field.

While the ads do not mention any conditions relating to the insurance, Saguy said, an internal memo circulated by the bank "indirectly stated that the credit [for car purchases] would be conditioned on the [purchase of] insurance."

"I see a gross violation of the law in the publication of the ads and in the internal memos - in the fact that [the bank] is essentially selling insurance without a license, in the fact that it is collecting fees in violation of the law, and in the fact that the sale of one product is being conditioned on the sale of another," Saguy said.

The Treasury's supervisor of insurance also said Mizrahi might be violating the law, Saguy said, but the bank has not replied to questions. Mizrahi told the subcommittee it has not broken any laws, and promised to give the Treasury full information on its new program.

The Bank of Israel said it supports allowing the banks to own insurance agencies and sell "standardized" insurance policies, which don't require special expertise. However, it is not clear that car insurance falls into this category, central bank spokesman Yoav Lehman said.

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## New system aims to outfox car thieves

A SOPHISTICATED system for preventing car thefts and tracking down stolen cars was unveiled yesterday in Tel Aviv.

The system was presented by Ituran, a new subsidiary of Tadiran.

The system includes equipment installed in the car, receivers and transmitters spread out throughout the country and a national monitoring center which will operate 24 hours a day.

A total of \$150 million was invested in the system, with 100 stations to be set up by the end of 1995.

"This is a sophisticated system capable of providing the location of any car at any given moment, in real time," company general manager Amnon Bruchiel explained.

A similar system has been working successfully in eight large US cities over the past four years. Vehicles outfitted with the system also have a sophisticated alarm.

The system allows for immediate tracking of stolen vehicles within seconds of when thieves break into them or drive them away.

The tracking system then informs both the police and the car owner exactly where the car is.

It can also open a line of communications with the thieves and warn them they have been discovered and should surrender.

It also offers drivers a two-way communications system enabling them to report emergencies and receive directions.

Ituran hopes to sell 50,000 units in 1995, with the system costing \$650 and monthly subscription fees costing \$15 per customer. (Itm)

## ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (1.6.94)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.875	4.250	4.750
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.500	3.750	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.125	4.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.125	3.125
Yen (10 million yen)	0.500	0.625	0.750

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (31.5.94)	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.2850	3.2850	3.2850
U.S. dollar	3.0138	3.0564	3.0370
German mark	1.8385	1.8845	1.8480
Pound sterling	4.5543	4.6105	4.5824
French franc	0.5363	0.5445	0.5355
Japanese yen (100)	2.8825	2.9231	2.9047
Dutch florin	1.6379	1.6810	1.6587
Swiss franc	2.1548	2.1822	2.1685
Swedish krona	0.3874	0.3929	0.3880
Norwegian krona	0.4233	0.4283	0.4264
Denish krone	0.4678	0.4745	0.4714
Finland mark	0.5548	0.5626	0.5577
Canadian dollar	2.1758	2.2085	2.1924
Australian dollar	2.2176	2.2488	2.2338
S. African rand	0.8288	0.8405	0.8346
Belgian franc (10)	0.8820	0.8945	0.8879
Austrian schilling (10)	2.6110	2.6478	2.6294
Italian lira (1000)	1.8985	1.9232	1.9052
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—
ECU	3.8223	3.8821	3.8574
Irish punt	4.4738	4.5369	4.5051
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2284	2.2578	2.2417

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI







## Gold, silver prices shoot up, other commodities expected to follow

LONDON (Reuters) - Precious metals prices raced ahead yesterday following an upward move on Comex silver which reflected a 100-plus points move on the CRB index and expectations that soy and corn prices would also rise.

Gold was fixed at \$387.60 per ounce against \$386.25 this morning and \$385.40 on Friday. Dealers said there was little reason for the price to move on the market's fundamentals.

But prices moved after the inflation-hedging CRB index was lifted by rises on cocoa and coffee futures with the expectation of a further push if soy and corn prices firmed on forecast continuing dry weather in the US Midwest growing areas.

Indications were that the Chicago futures markets would rise sharply on forecasts of continuing dry, hot weather in the Midwest where some centers were experiencing rainfall below 70 percent of normal.

Some commission house business and dealer covering helped

push gold and silver prices up, dealers said.

In contrast to the surging CRB index, US home building data for March and April was sharply lower than expectations.

By mid afternoon bullion was just under the day's high at \$388.05 having broken out of range which held prices under \$386 before New York opened.

Silver, having made no impression on \$5.50 throughout the morning, nudged through to \$5.61, against Europe's close Monday of \$5.47, after Comex opened sharply higher.

Even so, by recent standards a 12-cent range for silver from its \$5.49 opening was fairly commonplace, dealers said.

Platinum also firmed on the basis of silver's rally, adding around \$3.00 to a near unchanged start to \$401.50. The NYmer futures firmed \$2.60 quickly after silver's move.

Palladium however was less

financed but held its slightly firmer opening of \$135.00/\$136.00.

## Sales of new US homes declined in April after March rise

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Sales of new homes turned lower in April after rising in March, the Commerce Department said yesterday, suggesting that higher interest rates are discouraging some buyers.

Sales fell by 6.8% last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 683,000 units after a revised 6.4% rise in March.

Previously, the department said sales increased 11.1% in March to a rate of 739,000. The April showing was worse than Wall Street economists had predicted, with most seeing sales at an annual rate of 723,000 units.

Last week the National Realtors Association said sales of existing homes rose moderately in April, by 1.2% to a seasonally

adjusted annual rate of 4.12 million.

The industry group said some buyers apparently were buying out of fear interest rates will soon put monthly payments beyond their reach, which could soon cause sales to wane.

New home buyers, however, appeared to be already turning away as higher interest rates sent out alarms.

Mortgage rates bottomed out last October at just under 7% and have risen sharply since then.

The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. said average rates for a 30-year mortgage loan fell slightly to 8.53% last week from 8.56% a week earlier.

## World oil prices continuing to rise

STAVANGER, Norway (Reuters) - World oil prices should continue rising gently this year after hitting a five-year low in February, according to delegates at the World Petroleum Congress being held in this Western Norwegian oil town.

Increasing global demand for oil, especially from energy-hungry Asia, combined with responsible behavior from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) backs this feeling that oil prices are on their way back up.

There's a lot of light at the end of the tunnel. It's a bank vault door that's opening," International Energy Agency (IEA) deputy director John Ferriter told reporters.

After hitting \$13 per barrel in February, the lowest price in five years, the benchmark North Sea Brent price has rebounded to over \$16. Brent oil for July loading was traded at \$16.32 yesterday, down slightly from Friday.

A decision by OPEC states in March to freeze their combined output at 24.52 million barrels per day (bpd) is seen as having underpinned the firmness in prices.

OPEC Secretary General Subroto told delegates in Stavanger that he expected no change to the production quotas when the organization meets in two weeks, even though world demand for oil is rising considerably.

Analysts, looking at demand growth projections to the turn of the century, also paint a picture of recovering oil prices.

Oil company executives have

been cautiously optimistic at the Stavanger meeting, citing research that says demand for oil will grow by around one million bpd every year until the end of the century.

British Petroleum (BP) Chief Economist Peter Davies told the congress the rapidly growing economies of east Asia were hungry for oil to power their expansion plans.

He said China, a potentially huge consumer of external oil supplies, had probably become a net oil importer recently as industrial expansion outstrips domestic energy production.

Davies said OPEC's slice of world oil production looked set to rise because of flagging output in the United States, North Sea production that is set to peak in a few years and continuing chaos in Russia.

The former Soviet Union was the world's largest oil producer, but output has been slashed because of lack of investment and political uncertainty.

Subroto presented a scenario for OPEC oil demand to congress delegates that envisaged a near doubling of crude oil production from the 12 member states over the next 25 years to around 50 million bpd.

Analysts say such predictions are somewhat fanciful, given the number of imponderables that can affect oil production and prices.

However many industry experts agree that OPEC's influence will strengthen provided it can avoid internal rifts that have severely damaged its credibility in the past.

## European markets recover from drops, but nervousness remains

LONDON (Reuters) - European stock markets mostly recovered from earlier steep falls yesterday, but analysts said the mood remained nervous in the face of further weakness in bond prices.

Bonds fell sharply on fears of renewed inflation and the view that interest rates would rise rather than fall.

Prices, however, ended above the day's lows.

German Bund futures fell some 60 basis points on two pieces of bad news for the market.

Bundesbank board member Otmarsissing unreservedly investors by stressing the importance as a poli-

cy indicator of German money supply, which is running well outside Bundesbank targets.

German authorities made their second cancellation of a bond auction.

British long gilts (government bonds) dived by 1½ points as British money supply figures underlined strength in the country's economic recovery despite recent tax increases.

Stock markets mainly rallied after showing falls in the morning of more than one percent.

Traders said there was some buying by long-term institutional investors which supported the

London market and led to short-covering by market makers.

"With bond markets weak, it's a brave man who would say we have seen the worst," said John Reynolds of NatWest Markets.

Volume in stock markets remained fairly low, with most action in futures pits where brokerage houses and investors can take short-term trading positions quickly and cheaply and where any rally would be sharp if operators rush to cover positions.

The FTSE Index of 100 leading British shares is now 16% below its high of 3,539.2 hit in February, just before the US Federal Re-

serve tightened credit policy to spark a sell-off in bond markets.

Some investment analysts say the stock market is cheap at these levels, given expected gains in company earnings and dividend payments as economic recovery continues.

But chronic weakness in bonds, which in some cases now offer a return equal to shares despite less notional risk, will continue to hold back share markets.

"Europe has been selling off because of the reassessment of the outlook for German interest rates," said Peter Lyon, analyst for economics and strategy at

stockbrokers Smith New Court.

He said the resilience of economic recovery in Britain, despite recent tax increases, had surprised some people.

"Our best guess is that people are getting too worried about inflation and bond yields," he said.

Analysts generally believe British short-term interest rates have now reached their low at 5.25%.

But futures markets yesterday indicated rates at 6.3% by the end of the year and 8.4% by the end of 1995, which Lyon said was too high.

## European bonds slump to new lows

LONDON (Reuters) - Inflation fears forced many European government bond futures to new contract lows yesterday but some analysts say this year's rise in yields could be nearing its end.

If yields stop rising buyers may be tempted back into a market that has suffered drastic price falls, partly caused by a series of US interest rates which began on February 4.

"The seven percent yield (on 10-year German government bonds) should hold. But I'm not saying it's the level at which you should get your grandmother to start buying bonds," said Kirit Shah, fixed income strategist at First Chicago in London.

Germany's benchmark 6.25% Treubund issue due 2004 yielded 6.97% by midday. The June future contract was off 0.71 at 92.74.

"Seven percent yields look like medium-term value in the Bund market...and could be a level to encourage some buyers," agreed Keith Edmonds, chief analyst at IBI International here.

He said this pointed to real yields of around 4.0%, given that west German inflation was an annual 2.9%.

But "any good news is largely being ignored by the market," he added, referring to the Bundesbank announcement that a bond issue planned for the first 10 days of June would not take place because of the government's good cash position.

News of less bond supply should be positive for Bunds, said Shah. "But it's not good for psychological reasons," he added.

Bond market dealers were skeptical about the reasoning given by the government for scrapping the issue, the second time in a week that an issue has been withdrawn.

"The market interpreted the scrapping of the bond differently," one trader said. "There is simply no demand at the moment. The banks' bond portfolios are full and they would not have been prepared to take on any more paper."

In contrast, French and Italian bond auctions will go ahead as expected.

Italy was auctioning 3.5 trillion lire (\$2.20 billion) of 10-year and 30-year bonds yesterday, while France will offer up to 21 billion francs (\$3.74 billion) of 10 and 30-year OATs tomorrow.

"The French auction...will be a very testing one for the market," said Edmonds at IBI. While Italian government bonds appear to be weathering this recent bond market storm both Shah and Edmonds expect the French market to fall further.

From a fundamental viewpoint, Edmonds noted continental European bond markets could find some reassurance from continuing signs that inflationary pressures were subdued.

"But in the UK investors are worried about the traditional (economic) cycle...and expecting to see inflation pick up," said Edmonds.



Customers crowd into a private Athens bank to buy high-yield three-month bonds yesterday. Private banks issued the bonds to beat three-month bonds issued by the government with 25.5 percent annual interest. (AP)

## US consumer spending drops in April

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Consumer spending turned lower in April despite a continued rise in incomes, the US Commerce Department said yesterday, suggesting that Americans may be slowing their consumption binge.

Spending fell 0.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$460 billion, as incomes from wages, salaries, and all other sources rose 0.4% to a rate of \$566.

Wall Street economists had forecast that incomes would rise by 0.4% in April and that spend-

ing would increase by 0.1%.

Gains in personal income, which includes wages and salaries as well as income from sources such as dividends, interest, and businesses, are essential for funding consumer purchases, which fuel two-thirds of national economic activity.

Last week, the National Association of Business Economists forecast that the economy would grow at its strongest quarterly pace of the year during April-June, before tapering off moderately in the second half.

Commerce has reported that total goods and services output, measured by the gross domestic product, grew at a stronger 3% annual rate in the first three months of 1994 instead of the 2.6% rate estimated a month earlier.

That represented a moderation from the sizzling 7% expansion rate in the final quarter of last year, but showed the economy rebounded at the beginning of the second quarter from harsh winter weather, analysts said.

The department said personal

savings in April fell to an annual rate of \$173.8b, from \$177.7b in March.

The savings rate, which shows savings as a percentage of disposable income and is widely watched by economists, fell to 3.5% in April from 3.6% in March. That meant Americans were saving 3.5 cents out of each dollar they earned after taxes last month, after saving 3.6 cents in March.

Private-sector wages and salaries rose to an annual rate of \$2.62t, from \$2.61t, in March.

## Mediobanca's position seen secure despite probe

### ANALYSIS

CRISPAN BALMER

MILAN (Reuters) - All-powerful Mediobanca SpA will remain the lynchpin of Italian business life, despite being dragged into investigations surrounding the dramatic collapse of the Ferruzzi empire, analysts said.

Four senior executives at the bank, including its 86-year-old honorary president, Enrico Cuccia, were placed under official inquiry on Monday by magistrates probing last year's exposure of massive losses at the foods-to-chemicals group.

Newspapers have leapt to the defense of the secretive merchant bank, while investors showed their confidence in the company's future by pushing its share price up.

"Mediobanca has such an entrenched position in the market that until some real competition emerges, these investigations are not likely to make much difference," said Enrico Pozzone, chief Italian equity analyst with Kleinwort Benson.

Investors piled out of the stock last week as rumors spread of the inquiry. But on Tuesday, the share had gained almost one percent to 15,820 lire in afternoon

trade.

"This scandal should have been largely discounted by now," one Milan-based analyst said, declining to be named.

"Remember this is only an investigation, so there's still a long way to go before you can start thinking about any trials," he added.

Virtually every major transaction involving Italy's big companies is coordinated by Mediobanca, whose clients include carmaker Fiat, tire manufacturer Pirelli and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest media empire.

Last June the bank stepped in to save Ferruzzi, Italy's second largest private company, from impending bankruptcy, launching the biggest rescue plan in Italian corporate history.

But Ferruzzi's former chief executive Carlo Sama has said Mediobanca knew of undeclared losses totaling 435 billion lire (\$270 million) two months before

assuming control of the group, and then waited almost a month before making them public.

However newspapers yesterday questioned this charge.

"It is hard to understand how a consultant can become an accomplice simply by accepting the task of sorting out (the firm's) problems," *Corriere della Sera* said in an editorial.

*La Stampa* said magistrates might have been naive in issuing the inquiry order, or else: "They are playing a heavy game on the political stage where an official investigation represents a ferocious attack against a key institution for our economy."

Mediobanca has come under heavy attack in recent months for thwarting government plans to create a diffused shareholder base in privatized firms, by taking effective control of two former state banks, Banca Commerciale Italiana and Credito Italiano, at their recent sell-offs.

Romano Prodi, chairman of

state holding Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale, which sold the banks, accused Cuccia of being "a threat to prosperity, liberty and democracy."

But Marco Nascimbeni, analyst with Carnegie International, did not see the current investigations hampering the bank. The only fear he said, was if disgruntled investors pushed down the share price and jeopardized a planned rights issue.

Mediobanca is looking to raise between 1.5-1.9 trillion lire (\$950 million-\$1.187 billion) through the issue of warrants and some 100 million new shares in June. The bank said in April the new stock would not be offered for less than 15,000 lire.

At the time its share price was near to 19,000 lire, now it is perilously close to the rights issue floor.

But Kleinwort's Pozzone did not see any great reason to worry. "I've never seen a Mediobanca rights issue fail, and don't expect this one to. The share price will pick up in June and should be well," he predicted.

## Portable monitors help investors get a grip on the markets

NEW YORK - Stan Weinstein, who publishes an investor newsletter in Florida, succumbed to the lure of the hand-held stock monitor early. He was soon so dangerously addicted it took every fiber of resolution to do what he had to do: get rid of it.

"I would look at it when I was at the beach, or waiting for a red light," he said. "I decided it was just too much."

Fortunately for the small but growing stocks-at-your-fingertips-anywhere-anytime-night-or-day industry, few others have had the little devices have had the inclination or intestinal fortitude to quit cold turkey.

What was once a curiosity is now spreading its tentacles into every corner of the financial world, making the lives of some

traders even more happily one-dimensional than they were before.

At a time of dizzying ups and downs in the stock and bond markets, with fortunes won and lost in heavily leveraged investments, increasing numbers of people feel they must never be out of touch with the latest turns of the most obscure indexes.

Manny Grossman, who owns an import business near Chicago, was enraptured with the idea of instant stock market information when he ordered his QuoTrek monitor from the California-based Data Broadcasting Corp. two years ago. That, he said, "was the start of a love affair."

With tete-a-tetes between man and small machine over coffee in the morning and at other mo-

ments throughout the day.

Christopher R. Castroviejo, a hedge fund partner who puts his little Metriplex monitor beside his dessert spoon while lunching at fine Manhattan restaurants, confesses he consults it even when he's getting out of bed to go to the bathroom at 3 a.m.

"Something might be happening on the Tokyo market," he said.

Daring amateurs such as Glenn J. Perry, a patent attorney in Washington, have embraced the monitors as a way to protect themselves from the vicissitudes of trading in volatile instruments such as index options. "This is not for the faint of heart," Perry said. Without a monitor with him at all times, he said, it would be "a crap shoot in the dark."

Bryant Hilton, communica-

tions coordinator for the Personal Communication Industry Association, said the number of alphanumeric pagers capable of carrying stock information has jumped from 3.4 million in 1985 to 19 million today.

About 1.3 million of them are thought by the PCIA to be feeding the market information fixations of brokers, money managers and many dedicated amateur investors across the country.

Anne Armento, director of marketing for Data Broadcast Corp. (DBC) in San Mateo, Ca., said demand for her service grew 18 percent in just the first quarter of this year as bond traders, hedge fund managers, stock analysts and even retired bankers tending their pensions sought to protect themselves from the mar-

kets' volatility.

"We get a lot of interest when there is a lot of activity," Armento said, "and there is a lot of activity now."

Just what all this does to the nation's table manners and general social awkwardness is unclear. The several companies promoting hand-held stock monitors say they have no desire to ruin anyone's dinner party, but say they must serve their customers in an era of triumphant capitalism and worldwide, 24-hour markets.

Some systems use digital broadcasting facilities. Others use FM side bands generated by radio stations. Many of the devices can be set to vibrate, rather than beep or ring, when a favorite stock has just dipped into fi-

nancially calamitous territory, so that the user can excuse himself or herself to call a broker without causing a scene. "You don't want to be so crass as to put it right on the table," said Steven Strutman, president of Metriplex Inc. of Cambridge, Ma., which serves 12 major metropolitan areas and is shooting for many more.

Strutman said Metriplex customers are almost entirely professional investors and money managers, while Armento at DBC finds that "we do have a lot of people who are retired and like to keep track of their investments."

Wynn Loewenthal, 67, acquired a monitor 10 years ago when he was still working as an entertainment industry publicist in New York.

"He had lost \$500 when an ice cream company's stock plummeted while he was out to lunch. He resolved not to let that happen again."

The paging device has become much more sophisticated in the years since. Loewenthal said, "and I would never be without this thing." Now retired, he has the device with him whether "I'm on the bus, sitting in the park or having lunch in a restaurant."

Castroviejo confesses a similar affection for his Metriplex, although he is concerned about misunderstandings it may create. "I hear these things beep sometimes in restaurants and I know a lot of people think it means you're a drug dealer," he said. (The Washington Post)



# Argentina defeats Israel 3-0

DEREK FAITAL

SOME 40,000 soccer fans packed the Ramat Gan National Stadium last night to witness two-time world champions Argentina beat Israel 3-0.

Argentina, with the great Diego Maradona at the helm, took the lead midway through a highly competitive first half, through Gabriel Batistuta. Then, in the second half, they completely overwhelmed the Israelis as Batistuta increased the lead and fellow striker Claudio Caniggia knocked in a third.

The atmosphere in the stadium took on a South American air as thousands of Argentinian fans cheered on their team with their banners draped over the length of the touchline barrier.

The Israelis opened the game confidently with Reuven Atar and Ronen Harazi linking well down the left side and Tal Benin in support.

Atar, in particular, had a superb first period taking on and beating defenders and sending incisive passes into the Argentinian area. In the opening 20 minutes, Shlomo Scharf's men clearly had the advantage with Harazi surging through the defense in the seventh and 14th minutes.

Nevertheless, the danger signs were evident as Caniggia forced Bonnie Ginsburg to rush off his line and smother the ball at his feet with just eight minutes played.

The tide began to turn in the 22nd minute when Maradona found Batistuta with what looked to be an innocuous enough pass. Batistuta rose above the home defense and whipped a fierce header goalwards with Ginsburg beaten. The ball crashed against the bottom of the upright then bounced harmlessly away from the line for the defenders to clear.

Israel's fortune was short-lived when five minutes later, the lanky Fernando Redondo unleashed a powerful shot which brought a fly-



Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta (c) and Israel's Alon Harazi contest a loose ball as Diego Maradona (partially hidden) looks on. (Hanoach Guttmann)

ing save from Ginsburg. The ball carried loose to Batistuta who thundered it back into the roof of the goal.

The Israelis kept their composure, driven forward by Tal Benin who helped Ronnie Rosenthal, then Harazi produce scares for the Argentinian 'keeper. Just before the interval, Eyal Berkowitz who was having a relatively mediocre game, looked to have beaten the defense but was dispossessed just before he could release a shot.

After halftime, there were four substitutions in the home line-up. Rafi Cohen was brought on for Ginsburg, while Avi Nimsi, Haim Revivo and Eli Ohana replaced Ronni Levy, Atar and Rosenthal.

While Scharf's intention of bleeding as many of his young stars in advance of the European Nations qualifiers is understandable, the Israelis paid for the mass change of the guard within three minutes of the resumption. Caniggia spurted through the center and released Batistuta who beat the startled Cohen for the Argentin-

ians' second goal.

From this point on, the Israelis were unable to recover. In the 53rd minute, right back Jose Charot streamed down the left wing leaving the defenders for dust. He found Caniggia completely deserted in the center of the Israeli area by Nir Klinger and Caniggia slotted to finish the move in exemplary fashion.

Before the match, Maccabi Haifa midfielder Eyal Berkowitz was crowned Israel's footballer of the year by President Ezer Weizman.

win at Madison Square Garden to advance to the NBA Finals for the first time, and their first of two chances comes tonight in Game 5.

It's a daunting task for the Pacers, because the Knicks, just 1-6 on the road in the playoffs, are 8-0 at home.

The Pacers stayed perfect at Market Square Arena as Miller scored 31 points. Indiana had won its first five home playoff games by at least 10 points and only a fourth-quarter rally by the Knicks made it close Monday.

Miller, who had 13 points in the fourth quarter, played the superstar role down the stretch with 10 points and an assist in the decisive 12-2 burst that turned a two-point deficit into an 80-72 lead with 2:20 left.

The Pacers led by as many as 13 points in the third quarter and 64-55 with 11:38 left before the Knicks rallied to take the lead, 72-70, with a 15-4 burst capped by Hubert Davis' 3-pointer with 6:19 left.

Then Miller took over with a tying jumper, a perfect pass to Rik Smits for a go-ahead basket, and

# Courier ends Sampras's Grand Slam dream

PARIS (AP) — Jim Courier dashed arch-rival Pete Sampras's dream of a fourth straight Grand Slam title, outplaying the world No. 1 in four sets yesterday in the French Open quarter-finals.

Courier, hoping to regain the crown he won in 1991 and 1992, will seek revenge in Friday's semi-finals against Sergi Bruguera, who dethroned him in last year's final. The sixth-seeded Spaniard, yet to lose a set in five matches here, ousted No. 4 Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5.

Courier had lost 10 of 12 matches to Sampras, including the last four in a row. But this was their first clash on clay, and the No. 7 seed showed why he likes the surface with a relentless 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

"I'm kind of down and disappointed," Sampras said. "To win four in a row would have been something that would have been written about for years."

At the net after match point, Courier said he apologized to the top seed for breaking the Grand Slam streak.

"You go out there and play the

best you can," Courier said, speaking French to a local TV network. "That's life."

In the women's quarter-finals, top-seeded Steffi Graf and record-setting Mary Pierce each won decisively to set up a much-anticipated semifinal showdown tomorrow.

Pierce, the power-hitting No. 12 seed, routed Austrian Petra Ritter 6-0, 6-2 to reach a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time. In her five matches so far, Pierce has lost only six games, the best showing ever in the tournament.

Graf overcame 36th-ranked Ines Gorroategui of Argentina, 6-4, 6-1. She has reached at least the semifinals in every French Open since 1987, when she won the first of her three titles.

In the other semifinal matches two Spaniards, No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and No. 3 Conchita Martinez. Sanchez Vicario beat Julie Halard of France, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6) and Martinez rallied to beat 16th-seeded Sabine Hack of Germany, 2-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Courier played confidently in the first set while Sampras looked uneasy, changing rackets repeat-

edly and missing close to half his first serves.

In the second set, Sampras gained confidence by saving two break points that would have given Courier a 4-1 lead. Sampras broke service for the first time in the next game when Courier double-faulted and suddenly took command.

The third set stayed on serve until the crucial ninth game, when Courier broke Sampras for a 5-4 lead.

The fourth set turned on the seventh game, with Sampras serving to go up 4-3. Instead, after saving three break points, he hit a forehand long to go down 3-4. Courier held serve in the next game at love en route to closing out the 3-hour, 28-minute match.

The loss ended Sampras's winning streak of 25 Grand Slam matches. It was the third straight year he has lost in the French Open quarter-finals.

Against Ritter, Pierce won the first seven games before the 103rd-ranked Austrian finally held serve. Pierce made only four unforced errors and hit 25 outright winners, compared to three for Ritter.

# Pacers even Eastern Finals



INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers won again at home Monday. Now comes the challenge of winning at New York.

Reggie Miller played the decisive role in the fourth quarter as the Pacers evened the Eastern Conference finals 2-2 with an 83-77 victory. But the Pacers still must

win at Madison Square Garden to advance to the NBA Finals for the first time, and their first of two chances comes tonight in Game 5.

It's a daunting task for the Pacers, because the Knicks, just 1-6 on the road in the playoffs, are 8-0 at home.

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Then Miller took over with a tying jumper, a perfect pass to Rik Smits for a go-ahead basket, and

other jumper and then six straight free throws.

The Knicks closed to 80-77 with 30 seconds left on a layup by John Starks after a bad rebound pass by Indiana, and they got the ball back when Derrick McKey missed two free throws two seconds later.

But Davis fumbled a pass out of bounds with 6.6 seconds left, ending the Knicks' final hope.

Patrick Ewing, coming off a one-point performance in Game 3, scored 25 for the Knicks, who shot 37.7 percent from the field and turned the ball over 26 times. Smits finished with 15 points for Indiana and Starks scored 14 for New York.

**NBA Playoff Glimpse**  
Finals (Best of 7)  
EASTERN CONFERENCE  
Indiana 83, New York 77  
New York-Indiana series tied 2-2

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
Houston leads Utah 3-1  
Last night's scheduled game:  
Utah at Houston  
Today:  
Indiana at New York

# South Africa A beats England

KIMBERLEY, SA (AP) — England lost for the fourth time in five matches of its South African tour, falling 19-16 yesterday to a South African A side in the final tune-up before the first test.

Flyhalf Joel Stranksy led the South African side, which included at least four players expected to play in the first test, with 14 points on try, two penalties and a drop goal, while Christiaan Scholtz scored the other try for the home side.

Fullback Jonathan Callard, who flew in from England this week as an injury replacement, kicked three penalties and converted the lone English try by right wing Damien Hopley.

England led 10-3 at the half, but South Africa A began taking advantage of its position in the second half and Stranksy capitalized on chances provided by the visitors.

There is one more exhibition and two tests remaining on the tour, which has been disastrous so far for England. In addition to the loss Tuesday, England has been beaten by three provincial sides, including Transvaal and Natal, considered the top clubs in the country. The only English victory was over a weak Western Transvaal provincial side.

The tour is England's first to South Africa in a decade.

ENGLAND: Tries: Damien Hopley; Conversions: Jonathan Callard; Penalties: Callard 3.

SOUTH AFRICA A: Tries: Joel Stranksy; Conversions: Christiaan Scholtz; Penalties: Stranksy 2; Drop Goals: Stranksy.

# Gullit walks out on Dutch team

NOORDWIJK (AP) — Ruud Gullit has had enough of the Netherlands national team and says he won't play in this summer's World Cup.

Gullit said Monday during a news conference here that he won't give a reason for his departure until after the World Cup. With Gullit sitting next to him, Dutch coach Dick Advocaat said he regretted the decision and didn't know what was behind it.

"Everybody has to make decisions, but I think he has chosen a bad time to do it," teammate Ronald Koeman said. "He's important, but we must go on."

Gullit, 31, returned to his home in Italy on Monday with Marco Van Basten, his teammate on the national team and AC Milan, who is missing the World Cup because of an ankle injury.

Gullit had returned to the national team Friday after a 13-month absence and played in a 3-1 victory over Scotland. He hadn't played for the Netherlands

since April 1993, because of disagreements with Advocaat but the two patched up their differences this spring.

Gullit played the second half Friday, galvanizing the Dutch side into its best form in months, and set up Bryan Roy's opening goal.

After the match, Gullit criticized the attacking Dutch strategy, saying the team would have to play more defensively in the World Cup. Advocaat responded by saying that he, not Gullit, was responsible for tactical decisions.

Gullit has played 65 games for the Dutch national team and was captain of the team in 1988 when it won the European Championship. He made his international debut in 1981.

He scored 15 goals this season for Sampdoria of Genoa, then returned to AC Milan, the team he played for from 1987 to last year.

# American wins SA Ultra Marathon

PIETERMARITZBURG, SA (AP) — American Alberto Salazar started fast, almost too fast, but held on yesterday to win South Africa's premier road race, the Comrades Marathon, in 5 hours, 38 minutes and 39 seconds.

The 35-year-old former world marathon record holder won a major race for the first time in at least a decade and said afterward he almost quit because the pain was so great in the second half of the grueling ultra marathon.

"I must admit I thought about stopping in the final 20 kilometers (12 miles) and at one stage I even walked a couple of steps," Salazar said.

He blistered the first half of the

86.7km (52-mile) race in a record 2:44 to take a one-minute lead on the uphill route from Durban to Pietermaritzburg in eastern South Africa.

When trouble hit in the second half, Salazar said, he tried to pace himself to hold on.

Salazar became only the fourth runner to better 5 hours, 40 minutes on the uphill course. The race, first run in 1921, switches each year between the uphill Durban-Pietermaritzburg route and the downhill Pietermaritzburg-Durban route.

Second place went to South African Nic Bester, one of the three to previously better 5:40 uphill, who sprinted in at 5:42:52. Other

foreign runners in the top 10 were Peter Camenzind of Switzerland in fourth, 1993 Comrades winner Charly Doll of Germany in sixth and Dennis Gack of France in ninth.

Russian Valentina Liakhova took the lead at the 20-kilometer mark to easily win the women's competition in 6:41:23, more than four minutes ahead of compatriot Valentina Shatyayeva's 6:45:49. Hungarian Marta Vass was third in 6:51:04.

More than 12,000 runners took part in yesterday's race, the latest edition of an event which was originally held to honor South African soldiers who were killed in World War I.

# ASTROS put 'Wild Thing' on waivers

HOUSTON (AP) — "Wild Thing" is washed up with the Houston Astros.

Mitch Williams, who recently said he thought the Astros would release him, was right. He was put on waivers yesterday.

Williams' stay with the Astros was a brief one. He was traded to Houston last December for pitchers Doug Jones and Jeff Juden, a deal that the Philadelphia Phillies said they made for his own good after Williams gave up a World Series ring.

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# Astros put 'Wild Thing' on waivers

Series-ending home run to Toronto's Joe Carter.

Unfortunately for Williams, who saved 43 games for the Phillies last year, he lived up to his reputation as "Wild Thing" for Houston.

Williams is 1-4 with six saves and two blown chances — and a 7.65 ERA. He has given up 21 hits and walked 24 in 20 innings.

Reds 7, Expos 3  
Kevin Mitchell homered twice, going 3-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs scored, and Jose Rijo notched his 100th career win for host Cincinnati.

Mitchell and Reggie Sanders hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning. Mitchell now has 14 homers this season.

**MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:**  
Houston 4, Florida 3  
Colorado 12, New York 2  
Chicago 3, Philadelphia 8  
Atlanta 4, San Francisco 3 (11)  
Cincinnati 7, Montreal 3  
St. Louis 6, Los Angeles 5  
San Diego 18, Pittsburgh 2  
MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:  
Boston 6, Kansas City 5 (18)  
Seattle 12, Minnesota 6  
Texas 5, Milwaukee 4  
Chicago 7, New York 2  
Cleveland 16, California 2  
Oakland 6, Toronto 2  
Detroit 5, Baltimore 3 (11)

# American League

Red Sox 6, Royals 5  
Damon Berryhill had a decisive double in the bottom of the 10th inning for Boston, which tied the game with two homers in the eighth.

With one out in the 10th, Scott Cooper and Andy Tomberlin singled before Berryhill reached the leftfield wall against Hipolito Pichardo (0-2). Ken Ryan (1-0) pitched two innings for the win.

Mike Greenwell and Tomberlin hit solo homers in the eighth as the Red Sox rallied to tie it at 5.

# American League

East Division  
New York 22, L 19, .531 .581  
Boston 20, L 18, .525 .574  
Seattle 24, L 20, .550 .584  
Toronto 24, L 22, .480 .5  
Detroit 22, L 25, .406 .10

Central Division  
Chicago 29, L 18, .617 .5  
Cleveland 28, L 21, .553 .5  
Kansas City 24, L 22, .500 .514  
Minnesota 26, L 23, .406 .10

West Division  
Texas 22, L 26, .459 .5  
California 28, L 23, .442 .5  
Seattle 21, L 28, .429 .114  
Oakland 14, L 36, .280 .9

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# Petah Tikva mayor acquitted of bribery, breach of trust

PETAH TIKVA Mayor Giora Lev was acquitted on charges of accepting bribes and breach of trust by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Lev was indicted four years ago for accepting a plane ticket to Los Angeles from a building contractor in return for giving the latter a construction project.

Following the acquittal, Lev complained bitterly about his "difficult four-year struggle."

"This trial was extraneous," said Lev. "The state's attorney didn't want to listen to me, neither did the then-attorney general Yosef Harish."

The trial, he said, was the work of a "political maniac who went to the police for political interests and cooperated with the prosecution."

Judge Natan Amit ruled that Lev was not aware that he was committing an offense by accepting the ticket, but said there were irregularities in the handling of the building tender.

Lev was charged with accepting a plane ticket, to be used by his wife, from contractor Motti Dinovitz in return for allowing the latter to construct a park in Petah Tikva without competing

RAINE MARCUS



Petah Tikva Mayor Giora Lev (Israel Sun)

in a tender for the project as regulations require. Two other contractors had bowed out of the bidding and Dinovitz offered a low price for the work.

Dinovitz and Lev had planned to travel to Los Angeles for the

wedding of Dinovitz's nephew, but Lev told the contractor he could not pay for a ticket for his wife. Dinovitz then bought the \$1,300 ticket for Edna Lev.

The prosecution charged that, in return, Lev drafted a contract for the construction of "Gan Hameyasdim" without announcing an additional tender or getting approval from the municipal committee.

Lev had claimed that he did not know that the committee had to authorize such a contract, and said there was no connection between the flight ticket and the contract.

In acquitting Lev, Amit questioned the credibility of a central prosecution witness, Yoav Merhavi, describing his testimony as "tendentious and strange."

Amit said he found irregularities and incorrect management in giving Dinovitz the work but could not find "any criminal intent" or cause to convict.

"The prosecution did not prove that Lev accepted bribes," said Amit. But Lev should have known that any contract required approval by the municipality committee, he added.



Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, a former mayor of Arad, autographs a copy of the plan for a new 50,000-seat amphitheater in the Negev town at yesterday's session of the World Conference of Jewish National Fund Leaders. Looking on (from left) are Guido Levy, president of JNF Italy, which is sponsoring the project; JNF Director-General Yitzhak Eliashiv; JNF World Chairman Moshe Rivlin; and new JNF Co-chairman Yona Peled. (Joe Makolov)

## Tzaban blasts Israel Radio report on supply of false documents to Falash Mura

ABSORPTION Minister Yair Tzaban yesterday slammed an Israel Radio report claiming thousands of false documents identifying members of the Falash Mura community as Jews had been issued by the Ethiopian Jewish community.

According to the report, the relative ease with which such documents were available had led to a heavy stream of hopeful members of the Falash Mura community from villages in northern Ethiopia to the capital, Addis Ababa.

Describing these reports as "false leaks and rumors," Tzaban said it was disgraceful to place such collective blame on all the kessim, without checking the facts. "Such reports cause damage and disrupt the arrangements to bring [those Falash Mura entitled to come] gradually to Israel," Tzaban added.

He said that he had asked Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin to check whether the reports had originated with the Foreign Ministry.

An informed source said last night that the Ethiopian authorities were "less than enthusiastic" about the continued efforts to bring the Falash Mura to Israel. High-level talks on the subject had recently been held following a suggestion by Tzaban that the num-

BATSHEVA TSUR

ber of Falash Mura coming monthly be raised to 200, the source said.

Since last summer, when the first Falash Mura arrived here, only some 600 community members have been allowed to leave Ethiopia to be reunited with their families.

The Falash Mura are permitted to come here if they are found eligible under the Law of Return—that is, if they can prove their Jewishness.

To do so, many of them turn to the kessim. If they have first-de-

gree family members here, but cannot prove their Jewishness, they can come under the Law of Entry, which does not entitle them to immigrant rights.

Since Operation Solomon three years ago, 4,000 Falash Mura have remained in squalid quarters in different parts of the Ethiopian capital, getting humanitarian aid from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

An Interior Ministry committee occasionally goes to Addis Ababa to check the eligibility of those Falash Mura who have requested

to make aliya. Such a committee, headed by Yosef Tov, returned from the Ethiopian capital a few days ago. The Israeli ambassador is believed to have reported to the Foreign Ministry on its findings and on the talks with the Ethiopian authorities.

Acting Jewish Agency Chairman Yehiel Leket said yesterday that the agency brings the Falash Mura here on the basis of the government's decisions. He confirmed that an additional emissary had been sent to the Ethiopian capital because of pressure from the Falash Mura, but said that only a few hundred villagers from the north had come to Addis.

## How the alleged immigration scam works

HERB KEINON

RABBI Yitzhak Idan, an advisor to the chief rabbis, said his office has been appraised of two types of fraud allegedly being perpetrated by the Falash Mura.

He said one type of fraud involves kessim sending false documents of lineage to Falash Mura in Ethiopia. These documents, showing that the individuals in question are related to Jews, are then used to receive documents of entry into the country.

In the other type of fraud, Idan said that Falash Mura enter the

country under special permits, and then undergo what he described as "quickie conversions" which enable them to become citizens.

They are then able to bring in the rest of the family under the terms of the Law of Return, even if these family members do not convert.

"This has all caused disagreement in the Falash Mura community in Ethiopia," Idan said. "Peo-

ple with valid documents are now worried that they will be hurt because of the people using false documents."

Idan said that the Chief Rabbinate has chastised the rabbis performing the "quick" conversions, and is also calling for a review of the whole procedure by which Falash Mura are permitted entry into the country.

Idan said he does not know how many people have been involved in these alleged immigration scams.

## Suspected phone tappers released on bail

RAINE MARCUS

YA'ACOV Tsur and Rafi Friedman, the private investigators charged with tapping the phones of two senior employees of Yediot Aharonot and one of Ma'ariv, were released on NIS 100,000 bail in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday. They had been in custody for three weeks, followed by three weeks of house arrest.

The case has exposed a full-scale war between Ma'ariv and Yediot, with each blaming the other for ordering the wiretapping. Ha'aretz reported last week that two employees of an investigation company working for Ma'ariv were planted in the Tashbetz investigation company, employed by Yediot.

The "plants" stole documents which found their way to Ma'ariv, according to the report. One such document was shown on Mabat.

Following his release yesterday, Friedman, who at the start of the investigation admitted tapping the three phones, said the whole case

has been blown out of proportion by the press because of its involvement.

"Now I hope we can get on with the trial, just like any other defendants. The courts, not the press, will judge us," said Friedman.

Tsur has denied all charges of wiretapping. The pair are keeping silent about who ordered the taps and speculation is rife among police, other private investigators and the press that they are being paid vast sums of money to remain silent.

The pair will not be able to work as private investigators until after their trial. Police have seized the machine, manufactured by ECI, allegedly used for tapping cellular phones. As reported in The Jerusalem Post, the machine, which ECI said was given to the investigators for "experimentation and research" was also used by Tel Aviv's central unit on a trial

basis for around a month, although police officially deny this. It was used by an undercover unit for trapping a Lebanese drug dealer.

According to defense lawyers Motti Katz and Penina Devorin it has not yet been established that listening to such conversations is a criminal offense, since no one has been convicted for tapping cellular phones.

They also argued that tapping regular phones is a misdemeanor, and not a crime.

A list of around 60 subjects whose cellular phone conversations were allegedly tapped was presented in court recently.

Since the pair's arrest the prosecution has requested their detention, arguing that alleged "large-scale" offenses require a greater approach by courts, which have not imprisoned offenders for wiretapping.

Judge Zecharia Caspi said yesterday "it is embarrassing that the Supreme Court has not ruled on whether tapping cellular phones is a criminal offense."

While the issue is still "vague, controversial and complicated," he added, the two should not have their basic freedom abused.

Regarding the three charges of phone tapping, Caspi said that the prosecution has evidence to convict, including statements by prosecution witness Benny Hayoun.

"Claims by the prosecution that the pair are likely to commit other offenses and represent a danger to the public are debatable," said Caspi.

Maximum punishments by law for wiretapping offenses do not warrant their remand in custody, he added.

"The message to the public should not be conveyed by keeping the two in custody but by a public debate regarding such offenses," said Caspi.

## Court refuses to allow Meshulam to attend brother's wedding

Indictment against 'rabbi' expected by end of the week

EVELYN GORDON

DEPUTY Supreme Court President Aharon Barak yesterday refused to allow Uzi Meshulam to officiate at his brother's wedding, saying the danger of Meshulam or his followers creating a public disturbance was too great.

Meanwhile, state attorney Rivka Feldman told the court that an indictment against Meshulam

would probably be filed by the end of the week.

Barak also rejected a compromise proposed by Meshulam's attorney, Shmuel Fishman, whereby Meshulam would conduct the ceremony at the jail, with only the bride, the groom and two witnesses

in attendance. Feldman had argued that even with the best of intentions, Meshulam could not guarantee that a horde of his followers would not accompany the bride and groom to the prison, and run amok there.

"I don't believe he can control this," Feldman said, adding that as a result, this option would require "very great preparations... by both the prison and the police."

"It's not as if he were getting married himself," Feldman stressed. "The wedding can still take place without him."

Fishman argued that the petition was a "humanitarian request of the first order," and should therefore be approved, since "even a prisoner has rights." He rejected the idea that Meshulam constituted a public danger, saying that even during the weeks when Meshulam and his armed followers were holed up in Yehud, they had never used their weapons, because Meshulam had ordered them not to.

"These people sat there for a month and a half, and not one policeman was hurt," he said.

However, Barak accepted the state's arguments — supported by classified material — that permitting Meshulam to officiate at the wedding would constitute a public danger.

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**KUPAT HOLIM IN CRISIS**

THE Health Ministry yesterday promised that "no one's health will be jeopardized" by the financial problems of Kapat Holim Clalit.

However, officials did not say how this would be accomplished, since the government has to consider various alternatives, including putting the financially sick health fund into receivership or granting it massive subsidies.

There were only relatively small shortages of supplies in some of the health fund's 15 hospitals yesterday despite management's hav-

ing halted all disbursements of money to suppliers and frozen contracts.

The health fund transferred certain drugs from hospitals with adequate supplies (such as Beilinson in Petah Tikva) to those with shortages, including Josephthal in Eilat and Ha'emek in Afula. The supplies included infusion fluids, disposable equipment and drugs.

The works committee at Beilinson meanwhile called on Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to resign immediately. They accused him of endangering patients and staffers by threatening to put the health fund into receivership.

The staffers said it was unconscionable that they, who vastly improved health fund services over the past 18 months, should be punished for Clalit's financial distress. The works committee asked Histadrut

secretary-general-designate Haim Ramon and health minister-designate Ephraim Sneh for an urgent meeting. Clalit chairman Prof. Dan Michaeli yesterday expressed optimism that the government

would release the necessary money to the health fund to prevent it from shutting down. "They have no alternative, because there is no way that health services can be provided solely by government institutions without Kupat Holim Clalit," he said.

He offered to sell all the health fund's hospitals, but noted that only the government would be capable of raising such funds. "Nowhere in the whole world have large public hospitals been purchased by private interests. They are not money-makers."

The Israel Medical Association, representing 12,000 of the country's doctors, meanwhile declared that it would not allow the government to put Clalit into receivership.

The IMA accused the Finance Ministry and the Histadrut of intensifying the health fund's financial problems, and charged that the political leadership kept silent about these difficulties before the Histadrut elections to try to preserve their control.

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